

## Briefs: New S.D. Paddlefish Proposal Being Considered

PIERRE — A unique fishing opportunity may be offered to South Dakota residents under a proposal to be considered next month by the Game Fish and Parks Commission.

The Commission will consider a limited paddlefish snagging season for Lake Francis Case, running from May 1-31.

The proposed season would allow for 375 state-issued snagging tags and 25 snagging tags issued by the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe.

People wanting to provide written comments on the smallmouth bass proposal may do so until 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, by mailing the Game, Fish and Parks Commission, 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D., 57501, or email: wildinfo@state.sd.us. All comments must have the senders' full names and addresses in order to be included in the public record.

Comments may also be presented in person at the GFP Commission's public hearing at 2 p.m. CDT on Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Pierre Ramkota, 920 West Sioux Avenue in Pierre.

## 2012 Lodge, Group Camping Reservations In S.D. State Parks Open Soon

PIERRE — Beginning Nov. 1, visitors can begin making lodge reservations for 2012 arrivals at South Dakota state parks. On Dec. 1, those planning group outings to state parks can book their campsites.

Lodge reservations for all arrival dates in 2012 will be accepted beginning Nov. 1. Lodges are found at Lake Thompson Recreation Area near Lake Preston, Shadepill Recreation Area near Lemmon, Mina Lake Recreation Area near Aberdeen, Newton Hills State Park near Canton, Oahe Downstream Recreation Area near Pierre and Palisades State Park near Sioux Falls.

Reservations for group campsites during the 2012 reservation season open Dec. 1 and will be taken until Feb. 1, 2012. After that time, campsites are available on an individual basis within 90 days of arrival. Parks that offer group camping include: Custer State Park, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area, and North Point Recreation Area.

Group sites are reservable for arrival dates between May 18 and Sept. 3, 2012 at North Point Recreation Area, and can be made through Oct. 8 at Lewis and Clark Recreation Area and Custer State Park. A two-night minimum stay is required. Group sites are not available on the weekends of Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. Some special-event weekends are also unavailable at select parks. A two-night stay is not required and holiday weekends can be reserved at Custer State Park.

Lodge reservations can be made online at www.campsd.com or by calling 1-800-710-2267. Group camping reservations are only available through the call center. The call center is open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily (CT) through Feb. 17. Online reservations can be made 24 hours a day once the inventory becomes available.

For more information on reservations, visit the Division of Parks and Recreation website at www.gfp.sd.gov or call 605-773-3391.

## Neb. Pheasant Hunters Should Report Leg Bands

LINCOLN, Neb. — Hunters should report any leg bands they find on the pheasants they shoot this fall in the Southwest Focus on Pheasants area, according to Jeff Lusk, upland game program manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Game and Parks is capturing wild birds in the focus area and putting leg bands on them. The purpose is to help understand how pheasants move and use the study area, portions of Hitchcock, Hayes and Red Willow counties, as well as hunter harvest in the area.

Hunters should provide the number of the band, and the location and date it was recovered. Hunters may keep the band after reporting it. Bands may be reported by calling 402-471-1756.

The youth pheasant season is Oct. 22-23 and the regular season is Oct. 29-Jan. 31, 2012.

## Neb. Youth Fishing Instructor Training Scheduled

LINCOLN, Neb. — Volunteer youth fishing instructors will be certified Oct. 29 at the Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium, according to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The free workshop starts at 9 a.m.

Certified instructors in Game and Parks' Youth Fishing Program will learn how to put on fishing programs, derbies and club activities for children and families. Instructors will have the use of free fishing tackle and educational resources at clinics.

The aquarium is located at Schramm Park State Recreation Area, 7 miles south of Gretna on Nebraska Highway 31.

Contact Andrea Faas at 402-332-3901 or andrea.faas@nebraska.gov to register.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

# 2011 PDR Hunt: Kids Being Kids

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

As we headed west out of Watertown on Highway 212, on our way to the 2011 PDR disabled youth deer hunt in Clark, I couldn't help but think back to last year's event. Remembering the anticipation and the smiling faces of the kids participating in the hunt

The hunt has grown by leaps and bounds with three kids taking part in the first years hunt, last year it was five kids and at this years hunt there would be ten kids participating.

Clark, where the hunt is located is in Northeast South Dakota. It isn't a large community, as it has a population of 1,285, but those folks living there have big hearts.

Dean Rasmussen, who heads up P.D.R board, which puts on this event, along with his board members and the folks from around Clark are making dreams come true for these kids.

The hunt is dedicated to Dean's grandson Payton Dean Rasmussen, who passed away from spinal meningitis in 1999.

Don't think that this is not just a hunt, it's much more than that, it's an Event, and each year, it becomes more of a family get together with the hunters, their families, Clark residents and hunt organizers all getting together to take part in another great event, allowing these kids to spend time in the outdoors to take part in a real South Dakota deer hunt allowing them to just be kids.

Attending this years event would be; Austin Clark, Sioux Falls, Brady Bunker, Oacoma, Casey "One Shot" Pouier, Pine Ridge, Marshal Hansen, Sioux Falls, Cody Seehafer, Milbank, Cody Bremson, Webster, Brandon Elliot, Aberdeen, Andre Bieber, Aberdeen, Aric Tulowetzk, Watertown and Zach Engen, Sturgis.

Once the kids have pre-registered, all they need to hunt the event is to have taken the hunter's safety course, a \$5.00 youth deer hunt permit and to travel to the hunt headquarters located just outside Clark where they're teamed up with their guides and given the opportunity to zero their weapons before their Saturday hunt. If they have a favorite weapon, they can bring it along, if not, one would be provided for them.

Once they arrive, everything is furnished for the kids including guides, specially constructed hunting blinds, their



Brandon Elliot, of Aberdeen, is pictured with his first deer taken during the 2011 PDR Youth Hunt near Clark.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

meals, lodging as well as the meat processing.

To accommodate the additional hunters, several new ground blinds would be constructed for this year's hunt along with a new piece of equipment, an elevated scissors lift blind, christened the "Huff 3,000" which was funded through grants and furnished in part by Clark Sales.

At the hunt headquarters, old friends become reacquainted, while numerous new friendships would soon be made.

After the evening meal, prepared by the Clark Lions Club and a welcome from the Mayor of Clark, the local Game & Parks conservation officer talked about hunter safety after which game plans were made for the following morning hunt.

Saturday morning came quickly and as the group of participants and guides met at hunt headquarters it looked like it may be windy and cold, which wouldn't dampen the spirits of the young hunters. After a quick breakfast, it was off to the

blinds, placed strategically near routes indicating heavy deer traffic.

Our Outdoorsmen Adventures cameramen had headed out with the hunters to film the hunt of two of the youngsters, allowing them to cover the event in its entirety. The specially constructed blinds were spacious, large enough to house the hunter, their guide, a guardian as well as our cameraman.

This year's event started much like the 2010 hunt, with Zach Engen teamed up on guide John Archer land in a field between a slough and shelterbelt. They were set up in the exact same location this team was last year, where Zack knocked down a deer, only to have it jump up and run off into a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) field. After tracking the deer till dark and then again the following morning, they were unable to find any trace of the deer.

As it happened last year, a doe walked out, Zach placed the shot right where it needed to be, only to have the deer bolt

and run off. After waiting a short period of time, John looked for the deer and when it wasn't found, a call was placed to hunt headquarters requesting assistance to help track the deer.

As we arrived on scene, it was obvious by the huge grin on John's face that trackers wouldn't be needed this time. He'd located the deer; a big doe sporting jewelry as it had an ear tag as well as a collar. Zach's deer had run just a short distance into a small corn strip, where it had topped over.

After a few pictures with Zach and his deer, we all headed back to hunt headquarters to await any word from the other young hunters.

It wasn't long before word would come in letting us know that Cody Seehafer and Brady Bunker would take deer during their morning hunt while later that day during the evening hunt Brandon Elliot would get a shot at a deer.

Brandon, who was hunting with Kevin Zobel on Dean Kirkeby's land shot his deer late in the day as the sun was about to set, like Zach's deer, it ran off into a large CRP field that ran along the edge of a large slough. Kevin knew it was a good hit and chose to not push the deer, to return the following morning to find the deer.

The following morning, just after day-break several pickup loads of trackers and young hunters arrived at the field where Brandon had shot his doe. As the rain began to fall, we worked our way into the wet grass, carefully searching for any sign of the deer while a pickup carrying the young hunters worked along the outside edge of the field,

As we pushed through the wet grass, a shout came from June Seehafer, the driver of the pickup working along the edge of the grass, as they'd located Brandon's first deer.

I like anyone who's had the opportunity to be part of this hunt can tell you, spending time with these special kids will touch your heart!

As another successful PDR hunt drew to a close and this year's goodbyes were said, there would be no time for Dean Rasmussen and crew to relax as in just a few days, they'd begin the planning stages for next season's hunt.

For more information or to contribute to the PDR Hunt, check out their web site at www.pdryouthhunt.com

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is the producer/host of the award winning outdoorsmen Adventures television series that can be seen on Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. For more information on the outdoors go to www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

## TROPHY SPOTLIGHT



ABOVE: Russ McRoberts of Lincoln, Neb. caught this 66-pound paddlefish during a recent outing in the Yankton area. (Captain Norm's)



TOP RIGHT: Devin Stahlecker, 14, of Rapid City, caught these white bass and a 2-pound walleye while fishing with a friend below Gavins Point Dam on Oct. 9. (Submitted Photo)



RIGHT: Trent Newby, right, caught this 65-pound paddlefish during a recent outing. (Captain Norm's)



PHOTO: CAPTAIN NORM'S  
Donovan Johnson of Yankton caught this 11-pound, 12-ounce walleye.

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