

Briefs: Niobrara Ducks Unlimited Banquet Nov. 19

NIOBRARA, Neb. — The Niobrara, Neb., chapter of Ducks Unlimited will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. at the WFLA Hall in Niobrara. The banquet, to focus efforts on conserving wetlands, will feature a live auction, including guns, a raffle and a prime rib dinner. For more information, contact Jamie Novacek with the Niobrara Ducks Unlimited chapter at 402-336-7925 or email jlnovacek@yahoo.com.

GFP Asks Hunters, Landowners To Report Any Deer Found Dead

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department has documented a few white-tailed deer found dead across South Dakota, and early reports point to epizootic hemorrhagic disease or EHD, which commonly affects white-tailed deer in the fall.

"This is the time of year when we receive these reports, and it is hard to tell the extent of the impact at this time," said Steve Griffin, a GFP wildlife biologist. "The virus is carried by a biting midge, which can remain prevalent until a hard freeze kills the midges."

Department staff are collecting samples from some of the dead deer, and the samples are being sent to the diagnostics lab at South Dakota State University, Griffin said.

GFP is currently assessing the status of EHD in the South Dakota deer herd, he said.

"We have confirmed the disease in central South Dakota, and the symptoms that our local conservation officers and field staff are describing sound much like EHD," Griffin said. "Although the extent of the disease is unknown at this time, it appears that the primary counties affected are Sully, Hughes, Stanley, Jones, Lyman, and Tripp. With the hard freezes last week, the disease vector was likely eliminated. However, we may still see deer dying that were infected prior to the frost."

The virus that causes EHD gives deer a high fever, and they will appear to be in a daze. If the disease hits them hard, they can die in 1-3 days. The dead deer are often found near low-lying areas or in areas where they can cool off in a river or pond. They are usually too weak to leave those wet areas, and die there. EHD outbreaks can be locally severe, but rarely affect more than 25 percent of a deer population. In rare cases, up to 50 percent of deer may be stricken.

Those who see deer that appear dazed, or find a number of dead deer, are asked to contact local conservation officers or call the Pierre GFP office at 605-773-3718.

Merma Man Shatters State Paddlefish Record

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska's hook-and-line paddlefish record was not broken recently — it was shattered.

Louis Maring of Merma, Neb., snagged the 107-pound, 12-ounce paddlefish on Oct. 6 from the Missouri River's Gavins Point Dam tailwaters. It topped the old record by more than 14 pounds.

Maring's record breaker came on his first time paddlefishing. He and two friends had drawn tags.

"We just thought it was a big paddlefish; we didn't know it was a record," said Maring, 36, of his initial reaction to snagging the fish. "We didn't know what we had until it hit the scale."

Daryl Bauer, fisheries outreach program manager for Game and Parks, believes the fish, which was tagged June 2, 1992, below South Dakota's Fort Randall Dam, spent the last 19 years in Lewis and Clark Reservoir before escaping during the high water releases last summer.

Since being tagged, the fish grew nearly 10 inches in length and added almost 59 pounds. Bauer said the fish may have been 40 years old when it was snagged by Maring.

"You can go back and find historical stories of triple-digit fish taken during the settling of our state, but this fish is the largest Nebraska record of any species that has been documented," Bauer said.

The previous paddlefish record of 93 pounds was set in 1998.

OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

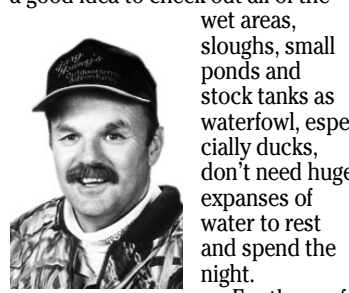
Tips For Early Season Waterfowl

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

Early waterfowl season is upon us and before heading out on opening day it's important to spend some time on the water and in the field scouting and patterning the ducks and geese.

You'll want to determine where the birds are resting; their flight patterns and where they're feeding are the keys to early season waterfowl hunting success.

If you're hunting over water, it's a good idea to check out all of the



Gary HOWEY

wet areas, sloughs, small ponds and stock tanks as waterfowl, especially ducks, don't need huge expanses of water to rest and spend the night. For those of us who hunt in the fields, it's good to know the land around your setup, to determine what crops are there and which will still be available when the season opens. Since crop rotation is a big part of the farming practices in the upper Midwest these days, spending a little time looking over adjoining fields and knowing what crops were planted there helps you figure out the waterfowl's flight path, giving you an idea as to where your decoy spread should be placed.

It's important to scout several areas well before the hunting season; of course, a lot of this depends on when the crops are harvested. If you can find an elevated vantage point overlooking the water, using a good pair of binoculars you can see the geese moving from the water to the feeding areas. Once you've located a flock coming off the water and heading out to feed, follow them to pinpoint where they're heading.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Jared Wire of Madison is pictured with a few of the waterfowl he took while hunting the waterfowl early in the season.

Waterfowl use corridors, paths allowing them to get to and from their feeding areas as quickly as possible, much the same way big game (deer and elk) use game trails. Once you have located these flight paths, a lot of your work is done, as they'll use them over and over again, allowing you to set up in their flight path. Geese will often fly out into the wind and keep going in that direction until they find a food source, coming out the same direction each day and feeding in that field until the food source is exhausted. They'll continue doing this until wind patterns change drastically, causing the birds to come off the water in a different direction.

The best way for you to determine where ducks and geese are feeding is by doing some late afternoon scouting and watching them until sundown. If they aren't harassed that night or the food source is not gone, as long as there's no major weather changes, you'll find them heading in that same direction the following morning.

When you're hunting geese you'll be hunting the agricultural

areas the geese are using as feeding areas or similar areas along their flight path. Once feeding geese or ducks are located, obtain permission to hunt the field, which can be tough at times as in many areas, someone other than the landowner has the field leased and it may take some time to track down the individual who can give you permission and you may run into areas that are leased, where someone else has permission on the field or the landowner just doesn't allow hunting, so don't think you can run out a day or two before season and get everything lined up.

If the field you'd like to hunt is already taken, I'll look at adjoining fields that are similar in or close to the flight path. If the field the birds

are feeding in is quite a distance away from their roosting area, some of my hunting buddies have had excellent luck setting up part way, short stopping the birds before they get to the other field.

As the flock leaves their roosting area, they're in pretty tight formations, but as they get farther away from that area, they have a tendency to fan out and spread. The farther they fly from their roosting area, the more they're spread out and the less birds you're going to see in one area that are farther from their roost. To remedy this, it's not a bad idea to set up closer to the refuge or roosting area.

With waterfowl hunting becoming more and more popular, locating a spot to hunt is becoming harder all the time. If you know a place where ducks and geese tend to return year in and year out, you'd best have already gotten permission. It's also not a bad idea to invite the landowner along or to offer to help him around the place or drop off a few cleaned birds after the hunt as this might just be what's needed for you to get permission or end up have exclusive hunting rights to the area.

With more folks looking for places to hunt and less habitat, landowners are those that are housing and feeding all forms of wildlife, so a little common courtesy goes a long way when it comes to hunting.

As I mentioned earlier, finding land to hunt can be tough and we're seeing more and more of land being leased. I hate to see it go to that, if you feel you have to lease, be sure to get a written lease agreement as I like many other hunters have been burnt by relying on the good-ole-boy, best of friends hand shake on

hunting property, only to end up not having a place to hunt the following year.

There are still places where hunting is available, and on these areas, you need to get permission early, at the end of the previous season or the following spring has always worked well for me.

Once you obtain permission, make sure that you understand all the rules, which fields to stay out of, where to park your vehicles, where you can drive, which fields to stay out of, where livestock and buildings are located and whether you can post the property. Driving in a field when it's wet or in muddy fields and in un-harvested crops is a quick way to lose permission on land. You want to make sure you know the who, what, when and where when it comes to the land you're hunting on. If a gate was closed when you came through it, close it when you enter and leave, pickup after yourself, removing all trash and spent shells and make sure that all your hunting gear is on the vehicle when you leave as gear forgotten or lost in the field will not only be destroyed by field equipment, they may create problems for the landowner next spring.

By spending a little time in the field scouting prior to the waterfowl opener and obtaining permission early, you'll be ready to go and ahead of the game this season.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler and hunting and fishing guide. His *Outdoorsmen Adventures* television series airs throughout the upper Midwest on Fox affiliates. For more information on the outdoors, go to www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

★ Decorate a Tree
...Help a Family in Need!

Please help us make this holiday season a little brighter for some families in need.

2 Ways You Can Help Out:

1. Sponsor and Decorate a 6-7 ft. Artificial Christmas Tree and a coordinating gift box for food donations
2. Vote for your favorite tree by placing one non-perishable food item in the gift box located by that tree

Trees will be on display at the Yankton Mall with voting November 21st-December 11th. Trees will be picked up by families in need and food delivered to our local food pantry. December 15th-17th

Tree Registration Due: November 15th

Call the mall office 665-5999 or Rita's Purse-0-Nalities 260-8362

Tree Setup/Decorate Tree: November 19th & 20th
Please check in at Rita's Purse-0-Nalities or the Yankton Mall Office before setting up.

Grand Prize For Best Decorated Tree is a \$100 Yankton Mall Gift Card

Winner will be announced December 14th

Brought to you by the Press & Dakotan & the Yankton Mall
Co-sponsored by: Rita's Purse-0-Nalities

Hey, Kids! Come out to the mall

Monday, October 31st 5:30 pm

for our **Costume Parade**

YANKTON MALL 2101 Broadway • Yankton, SD (605) 665-5999

Avera McKennan Hospital 100 YEARS

Gala for a CENTURY

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY.

November 11, 2011

SIoux FALLS CONVENTION CENTER

For information and to purchase tickets, go to Avera.org/gala.

"Spook" Tacular Savings!!

restonic SUPPORTING DREAMS™

HOT BUYS

OUR BEST RESTONIC **Mattress Buys** OF THE YEAR!

SEVEN-TIME WINNER CONSUMERS' DIGEST BEST BUY

7 TIME AWARD-WINNING TECHNOLOGY

Belmonte Plush or Firm \$599 Queen Set	Cancun Plush or Firm \$799 Queen Set
Twin.....\$499/set Full.....\$579/set Queen.....\$599/set King.....\$899/set	Twin.....\$599/set Full.....\$779/set Queen.....\$799/set King.....\$1099/set

Twin Size Starting at \$199 **Full Size Starting at \$249**

Cancun Yours & Mine \$899 Queen Set	Donovan Plush Euro Top \$999 Queen Set
Twin.....\$699/set Full.....\$879/set Queen.....\$899/set King.....\$1199/set	Twin.....\$799/set Full.....\$979/set Queen.....\$999/set King.....\$1399/set

Marvelous Middle™ Construction
Restonic's exclusive and unique construction creates an incredibly comfortable, yet extra supportive cushion in the critical center third of your body.

Celebrate VETERANS Day

November 11, 2011

Military Salute

Recognize a Veteran or Military Personnel in our November 11th issue of the **Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan** & November 15th issue of the **Missouri Valley Shopper**

Deadline: Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Mail to: "Military Salute", Yankton Media, PO Box 56, Yankton, SD 57078
Email to: classifieds@yankton.net and we will call for Credit Card Payment
OR Submit at www.yankton.net and we will call for Credit Card Payment

Submission Fee: \$20
Includes a photo and 20 words (\$1 per word over 20 words)
Runs in the **Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan and Missouri Valley Shopper**

Veterans Name: _____
Branch: _____
Rank: _____
SPECIAL MESSAGE (20 Words or Less)

Brunick Furniture & Flooring

207 W. 3rd St. • Yankton, SD 665-5625
1100 W. Cherry St. • Vermillion, SD 624-8688

Monday 9-8 • Tuesday-Friday 9-5:30 • Saturday 9-5