

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Business Opportunity Available At Lewis & Clark Rec Area

PIERRE — Entrepreneurs interested in operating a marina inside one of South Dakota's most popular state parks can now submit their proposals.

A revised prospectus for the operation of Lewis and Clark Marina, located inside Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton is now available online and through the Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

The prospectus details the terms and conditions under which interested operators may submit a proposal for consideration. It also includes a detailed business opportunity, the requirements necessary to submit a proposal and a draft concession agreement for a term of ten years.

Required services include a marina, full restaurant service, boat repair and service department, retail goods, and boat fuel. Proposals must be received by 3 p.m. on Dec. 8.

"Lewis and Clark Recreation Area is an extremely popular outdoor recreation destination for South Dakotans as well as residents of neighboring states," said Doug Hofer, state park director. "Annually, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area hosts over 1 million visitors"

The 1,045-acre Lewis and Clark Recreation Area consists of 4 multi-lane boat ramps, 409 paved electric campsites, 2 swimming beaches, 4 boater beaches and many other amenities such as bath/shower houses, picnic shelters and playgrounds. The marina has over 400 boat slips, roughly 60 personal watercraft docks, floating gas sales, boat rentals, service department, convenience store and full service restaurant.

Lewis and Clark Recreation Area is located approximately 5 miles west of Yankton off of Highway 50.

Out Of State Hunter Wins Grand Prize

MITCHELL — The Mitchell Cabela's store gave away \$15,000 in prizes on Sunday evening. The prizes were given away to 30 pheasant hunters who participated in the Great American Banded Bird Pheasant Hunt.

Cabela's had banded and released 100 banded birds on both public and private land within 70 miles of the Mitchell store prior to opening weekend. 30 of the 100 bands were brought in within the 2 day contest timeframe. "It was wonderful to see so many bands turned in," said Retail Marketing Specialist Jen Johnston. "We had 13 resident hunters turn in bands and 17 non-resident hunters."

All non-resident and resident hunters, age 18 years and older were able to participate. There was no registration required or purchase necessary to win.

The grand prize was a Coleman 500 ATV valued at \$5,999.99 and was awarded to John Krivinchuk of Superior, WI. Kent Larson was the 2nd place prize winner from Dilworth, Minn., and won an Ultimate Upland Package that included a Beretta Shot Gun, 2-day hunt at the Rooster Roost Ranch and an upland clothing package, valued at \$4,800.00. All 28 of the other contestants went home with a Beretta shot gun or a \$100 Cabela's Gift Card.

All remaining bands turned in throughout the pheasant hunting season will be entered to win 3 end of season prizes that include a \$2,000 shopping spree, Benelli shot gun and an Upland gear package. For more information contact the Mitchell Store at 605-996-0337.

Neb. Commissioners Authorize Two Bighorn Sheep Permits For 2015

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Game and Parks Board of Commissioners authorized one lottery and one auction bighorn sheep permit for 2015 at their meeting in Scottsbluff on Oct. 23.

The lottery permit is for residents only, while the auction permit is available to residents and nonresidents. The last time the state approved two bighorn permits in one year was 2011. There is one lottery permit this year for the Dec. 2-22 season.

Staff reported that of the approximately 390 bighorn sheep in the state, 29 rams in four established herds are at or near the desired age for hunting. Staff will assess ram availability and age structure in the four herds next summer and then decide which areas the permit holders will be allowed to hunt.

Wildlife-Viewing Grants Available

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is requesting grant proposals that will enhance watchable wildlife opportunities and nature-based experiences in Nebraska.

Potential projects include, but are not limited to, viewing site development, events, infrastructure, marketing, equipment and plan development.

Proposals are due Dec. 10. There is a maximum of \$3,000 available per proposal. Funding is provided by the Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Fund.

For more information, visit Watch-WildlifeNe.org or contact Kristal Stoner at kristal.stoner@nebraska.gov.

Minnesota Governor's Hunt

BY GARY HOWEY Hartington, Neb.

WORTHINGTON, Minn. — The pheasant opener, a day we hunters have been preparing for the entire year and in Minnesota, one that kicks off with the Minnesota Governors Pheasant Hunt.

I have spent many hours probing the depths for walleyes on the lakes of Minnesota, but have not had many opportunities to hunt.

When Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Larry Myhre and I received invitations to attend the Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener, we jumped at the chance. We were anxious to see what this part of the state had to offer!

The Minnesota DNR's August roadside counts showed the southwestern part of the state held the highest pheasant numbers, with southwestern Minnesota showing a 22% increase over last year's count.

Last week, our opportunity to hunt in the state became reality as we were among the 425 who attended the banquet held at the Comfort Suites, those who hunted during the fourth annual Minnesota's Governor's Hunting Opener held in Worthington, Minnesota.

We joined Nobles County Pheasants Forever members Doug Tate and Nathan Holt, his labs Nitro and Greta and Ken Varland, Southern Minnesota Regional Wildlife Manager, for the 2014 pheasant season northwest of Worthington.

Nobles County Pheasants Forever was one of the entities, hosting the Governor's Hunt. It was the 14th Pheasants Forever chapter established in the nation in 1982 and in 1986 had the distinction of producing the first land acquisition in the history of the organization. Since their inception, the chapter has con-



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE Gary Howey, left, Nathan Holt and his Labs, Greta and Nitro, make their way back out of the field after a successful pheasant hunt during the Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener near Worthington, Minnesota.



Gary HOWEY

tributed \$3.1 million to land acquisition purchases on 31 different properties that total more than 2,000 acres.

Pheasants Forever is the Habitat Organization. Habitat is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism, and in many areas what used to be natural habitat is now cropland.

Find the habitat and you are going to find pheasants. In the Worthington, Minnesota area, you will find both, as there are 43 public access Wildlife Management Areas scattered throughout the area with premier habitat.

It was early October with much of the crops still standing in the field. We would be hunting a 148-acre tract of well-established grasses, mostly Big Bluestem with willows towering along the edges and wetlands running through the middle. It was habitat ideal for pheasant.

At 9:00 as the season opened, with Nitro and Greta working out front, we made our way into the damp grass, which created excellent scenting con-

ditions for the dogs. We had waited for this, the pheasant opener for a year, anticipation was high, and we would not be disappointed as it would not be long before the dogs put several birds into the air.

The first two came up silent into the sun, making not a sound, not cackling as roosters often do, making it difficult for us to identify the birds as roosters.

The third bird came up, swung left, towards the outside of our group, Ken spotted color on the young bird, shouldering his shotgun, dropping our first birds of the day.

As more birds went skyward, it appeared as if these birds were from a late hatch, as many of the birds were young of the year, showing very little color.

Our groups made two passes through the field, with three of the seventeen birds we put into the air added to our game bags.

Other participants, including several Wounded Warriors, hunted throughout the area, all finding good

numbers of birds in the excellent habitat distributed throughout the county.

The Worthington area is where the community, state, several corporations, individuals and Pheasants Forever have all worked together, acquiring the new 147-acre Worthington Wells Wildlife Management Area (WMA), an addition to the Lake Bella Wildlife Management Area. The dedication of this new WMA as held during the Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Opener. This new acquisition creates a wildlife habitat complex allowing hunters and other recreational users to make a 12-mile loop without leaving public lands.

Not only did this newly acquired property benefit those who love the outdoors, it also resulted in the protection of over 95 percent of all the highly vulnerable acres within the wellhead protection boundaries for the city of Worthington.

The event was a success, allowing Wounded Warriors and guest to sample the excellent pheasant hunt and hospitality in the Worthington area. An area, we will return to along with others, as once you have sampled the many things offered there, you will have to go back for more.

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 in the Yankton area on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday@ 7:00 am on MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. In Northwest Iowa, Southeast South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska it airs on Siouxland CW 4.2 Sunday @ 9:00 am., He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

Nebraska XC

From Page 15

at their pre-meet projections. Crofton, the 2013 state champs, came in seeded fourth. "Whenever you come down here and get PR's (the returning runners for Crofton ran faster Friday than they did at state a year ago), you gotta feel good about it."

Senior Cole Steffen finished on the podium for Crofton, placing 11th in 17:32.1. Brady Stucky (18:27.9) placed 36th, Justin Goeden (18:47.9) finished 53rd and Joshua Goeden (18:51.9) placed 56th for the Warriors. John Haberer (19:35.8) and Lane Weidner (20:00.2) rounded out the Warrior lineup.

Also in Class D, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge junior Aaron Haahr repeated as a state medal-winner, finishing 13th in 17:37.9. Creighton's

Garrison Hazen placed 43rd in 18:35.0. Bloomfield's Kyle Young was 67th in 19:05.6.

Hartington-Newcastle freshman Brian Santiga cracked the medals stand in the Class C boys' race, finishing 13th in 17:52.4. Teammate Noah Noecker, a junior, just missed with a 16th place finish in 18:05.9.

Milford claimed the Class C girls' title, 47-58 over Columbus Scotus, led by the 1-2 finish of juniors Tylin Masco (16:43.9) and Hunter Jensen (17:09.8).

In the Class C girls' race, freshman Karli McCain (22:02.1) led Hartington-Newcastle with a 25th place finish. Anna Brodersen (22:10.6) placed 30th and Anna Burbach (24:21.7) placed 68th for the Wildcats.

Boone Central-Newman Grove edged Wayne 43-48 for the Class C girls' team title. Mitchell's Celeste Cardona (20:17.8) beat out Lincoln Christian's Collette Williams by three seconds for individual honors.

All races are 5,000 meters in Nebraska.

State

From Page 15

of varsity races they ran, they were right up in the front third."

While the Yankton boys have not had as much success, they have had a tight pack. At ESD there was just 46 seconds between Yankton's first and seventh runners, with just 34 seconds between the top five scoring runners.

"We have the luxury of having seven runners that are all pretty close," Dannenbring said. "(Senior) Paul Fanta has been ahead, but everyone is catching up. We're packed up two through seven."

Besides seniors Fanta and Kyle Bergeson, the Bucks have juniors Gabe Dannenbring, Sam Gusso and Andrew Peitz, freshman Brady Jaquith and eighth grader

Nathan Zimmerman running at state.

Gusso finished 51st at state a year ago, with Peitz 60th, Bergeson 79th and Jaquith 91st.

Having such a young squad has Coach Dannenbring excited about the future.

"We are excited about next year will bring," he said. "We only lose two seniors, and we've got a pack of five younger kids that are close to this year's seven."

While competition in the state meet begins at 1 p.m., the Class AA schools do not take the course until 3 p.m. with the girls' race. The boys' race will follow at 3:30 p.m., with awards for all classes to follow.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

Cross

From Page 16

Avon

Junior Heidi Cap will compete for the Lady Pirates in Huron.

Centerville

Senior Nick Wixon, the Tri-Valley Conference champion, will compete for the Centerville boys.

Irene-Wakonda

The Eagles send two boys to Huron,

sophomore Levi Van Beek and eighth grader Joe Sees.

Marion

The Bears will send one girl to state, senior Angelica Rico.

Marty Indian

The Braves send one boy to state, junior Arian Iron Elk.

Menno

Eighth grader Logan Klaudt qualified for the boys' race for the Wolves.

Platte-Geddes

Senior Josiah Brink will compete in the boys' race and junior Reganne Enge-

breton will compete in the girls' race for the Black Panthers. Engebretson was 15th at state a year ago.

Scotland

The Highlanders will send two boys to Huron: Sophomore Damien Fuerst and eighth grader Nick Baker. Sophomore Kchandra Furney also qualified for Scotland.

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