

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Yankton Sharpshooters
Sight-In Day Sept. 27

The Yankton Sharpshooters will be holding its annual sight-in day Sunday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the range located five miles west of Walmart and 2 ½ miles north of Highway 50. Targets and rests will be provided. All guns must be unloaded before entering range. See one of our range officers before removing guns from vehicles.

Officials: Illegal To Bait
Big Game Animals

South Dakota big game hunters are reminded that it is illegal for anyone to place any salt or salt lick or construct, occupy, or use any screen, blind, scaffold, or other device at or near any salt or salt lick for the purposes of enticing or baiting big game animals to the same for the purpose of hunting, watching for, or killing big game.

Additionally, South Dakota hunters may not establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station from August 15 to Feb. 1, inclusive, and from March 15 to May 31, inclusive, to attract any big game animal, including wild turkey.

A bait station is a location where grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, minerals, or any other natural food materials, commercial products containing natural food materials, or by-products of such materials are placed or maintained as an attractant to big game animals for the purpose of hunting. The use of scents alone does not constitute a bait station. This section does not apply to foods that have not been placed or gathered by a person and result from normal environmental conditions or accepted farming, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities.

Custer State Park to
Auction Cabins

CUSTER - Custer State Park is currently auctioning off 12 cabins on an online auction website in order to make room for new, updated cabins. The auction runs until Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. MDT.

The auction can be found online at www.publicsurplus.com, under the "building-general" tabs.

The cabins are one-room units with a bathroom and can sleep up to four people.

The cabins must be removed between Sept. 29 at noon and Oct. 11 at 5 p.m. MDT. If the cabins are not removed by this time they will remain the property of the State.

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Thinking Pheasants? Think S.D.

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

If you are an upland game bird hunter, you have probably heard the stories about the great pheasant hunting in South Dakota.

As I travel throughout the U.S. and talk with people about hunting and the outdoors, the first question they ask when hearing that I am originally from South Dakota is, "I hear the pheasant hunting is pretty good up there?"

Anyway, that would be their lead in to the conversation because they already know darn good and well that the pheasant hunting in South Dakota is phenomenal!

They had either been there, read about it or wished they could be there during the next pheasant-hunting season!

When I lived in South Dakota (Watertown to be exact), we just took it for granted that everyone had pheasants as we did.

It was nothing to walk from my home in southwest Watertown and see pheasants everywhere.

They were part of the landscape like the cattle and other animals we saw around the farms and you did not have to go very far before you saw the next bunch of pheasants.

With each trip to South Dakota I am reminded what pheasant hunting was really like.

My hunting partner Larry Myhre and I were both born and raised in South Dakota and have hunted pheasants throughout the state. On each trip, we remembered the South Dakota from years past. In fact, it just seems to be getting better with more acres to hunt and excellent bird numbers. The South Dakota pheasant road count show a 42 percent increase in the statewide pheasants-per-mile index



Gary
HOWEY



Scott Stern of Freeman and Jim Hamilton of Canton are pictured with a limit of birds taken while hunting near Winner, S.D. during a previous South Dakota pheasant hunt.

PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

compared to 2014. This road count and the 150 percent increase overall since pheasant numbers were at a recent low just two years ago

The hunters' cry of, "rooster" can be heard continually all though the season as the brightly colored birds take flight from grasslands, sloughs and crop ground.

South Dakota is a place where a group of strangers can spend time in the field, becoming friends; leave the hunt knowing they had just experienced one of the most exciting things in the outdoors, a pheasant hunt in South Dakota.

The hunting is great, and so is the South Dakota hospitality.

Habitat is the key to good wildlife numbers, and South Dakota is among the best when it comes to developing and improving habitat.

Unlike other states where every

available acre is torn and put into row crops, South Dakotans realize what an asset the wildlife is.

Instead of tearing everything up, they provide habitat, preserving the sloughs, creek bottoms, shelterbelts and grassy fields so that pheasants and other wildlife will have a place to raise their young.

They also plant food plots or leave some crops in the fields, helping wildlife to make it through those tough Dakota winters that show up every now and again.

Another thing that helps to draw hunters to South Dakota is plentiful access to public hunting land. Hunters in South Dakota can hunt road ditches and right of ways. This along with the Game, Fish & Parks' Walk-In-Access program provides thousands of acres of public land to hunt.

South Dakotans realize that a

sustainable wildlife population will benefit the economy and that many hunters out there want to hunt pheasants in South Dakota.

The dollars generated by hunters each season is a tremendous boost to the state's economy.

No matter what you are looking for when it comes to a pheasant hunt, you can find it in South Dakota!

If you want to spend a couple of days hunting with your son or a friend, you can do it inexpensively by hunting public hunting areas.

If you would like to hunt private ground there are several alternatives available as in South Dakota as you can find as fancy a hunt as you are looking for.

There are hunts where you simply pay a fee for land access ranging all the way to the top of the line hunts that are fully guided including world-class lodging and meals. These are all available in South Dakota.

So if you want to do some "real" pheasant hunts in "real" pheasant country, then look to South Dakota because it doesn't get any better than this!

If you would like more information on the great hunting and other outdoor opportunities in South Dakota, go to www.travelsd.com www.travelsd.com.

Gary Howey, originally from Watertown who now resides in 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 KTTM/KTTW- Fox TV, Sioux Falls/Huron, S.D. 6:30 am Saturday and on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. The show airs in nine states in the upper Midwest. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska and in Northwest Iowa on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

At 15 Years Old, Minn. Boy A Veteran Of The Hunt

BY SAM COOK

(c) 2015 Duluth News Tribune
(Duluth, Minn.)

DULUTH, Minn. – Venus shone like a beacon in the east before dawn on a recent morning. But it's a good bet that Caleb Mannon didn't notice.

Caleb, 15, was pulling on layers of camouflage clothing by the red beam of his dad's pickup taillights. It was opening day of Duluth's city bow hunt for whitetails. He and his dad, Phil Mannon, were gearing up to slip silently into the woods and climb into tree stands.

A sophomore at Duluth East High School, Caleb had been anticipating this day.

"That's pretty much all that's been going through my head," he had said a couple of nights earlier at his home north of Duluth.

He knew this pre-dawn routine well – camo pants, camo jacket, camo harness that he would clip to his tree to prevent falling. The Mathews Chill bow. A rack of arrows. Rubber boots.

With the truck idling quietly, Phil Mannon spritzed his son with scent-masking spray.

"Text me when you get on your stand," Phil Mannon said.

Caleb nodded. Then he vanished, through a yard, beneath some maples and down a trail into the woods on private property in eastern Duluth where the Mannons have permission to hunt.

Across town, many of the 375 hunters in Duluth's city bow hunt were doing exactly the same on the opener. This is the 11th year of the hunt. Phil Mannon is chairman of the board of the Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance, which organizes and conducts the hunt for the city.

Caleb is not new to the Duluth city hunt, nor to bow-hunting. He has been shooting a bow since he was 6, and he's been bowhunting for five seasons now.

"My dad has done it," he said. "I thought I'd try it out and see how it would be. I fell in love with it."

He shot three deer – two does and a buck – in last fall's city hunt. Those were the first deer he had ever taken with a bow, although he has been hunting in the city hunt since he first became eligible in 2012. The state of Minnesota allows big-game hunting by youths as young as 10, but city hunt regulations require a hunter to be at least 12 years old.

Caleb also has also taken a deer with a rifle.

His dad has shot many, many deer in the 10 years of the city hunt. On Saturday morning, he was hunting about a block away from Caleb in the same patch of woods.

Phil had happened onto this property through the man who owns it. Coming out of the



SAM COOK/DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE/TNS

After an early morning on the deer stand Saturday, Caleb Mannon walks out of the woods near Duluth, Minn. His dad, Phil Mannon, follows him. Both were hunting in a wooded area of Duluth in the city's annual bow hunt for deer.

woods from a nearby hunt one day a few years ago, Mannon had encountered the man in a pickup.

"He stopped and asked me, 'Are you hunting?' " Mannon recalled. "I said, 'Yes.' He said, 'Get your butt in the pickup and come with me.'"

Like so many Duluth residents, the man was tired of deer mangling his trees and shrubs. He told Mannon to shoot them all. The Mannons haven't done that, but they've taken several on the property.

"This has been a good spot for does," Phil said.

Daylight came fast on this clear morning. The temperature was 46 degrees. It felt like hunting weather. Caleb climbed into his stand and pulled his bow up on its haul line. He clipped his harness into a safety restraint. He settled in and let the morning present itself.

As much as he enjoys the hunt, he also appreciates just becoming an unnoticed part of the forest.

"I just like sitting in the woods _ and the rush you get when you see a deer. It's a cool rush," he said. "It's lucky if you see a deer, but you also get to witness nature. The animals don't know you're there. You get to see them in their natural

habitat."

That's exactly the kind of morning his dad was having from his stand.

"It was 'Wild America,' but not of the deer kind," Phil would say a couple of hours later. "I saw two raccoons, five squirrels, a gray fox and about 6,000 thrushes."

Caleb figures he sat in deer stands 40 times during last fall's deer season. He shot three arrows. Deer hunting, even in a higher-probability hunt like Duluth's city hunt, is still primarily a waiting game. That's especially true for bow hunters, who must get a deer within about 20 yards for a reliable shot.

Deer hunting is woven deep in the fabric of the Mannon family's life. This fall, Caleb and his dad are hoping to take four deer in the city season, where hunters are permitted up to five deer. The Mannon family relies on wild game for much of its meat.

"All we eat is deer and bear," Phil said. "We can go through four deer and a bear every year."

The Mannons already have wild game in the freezer. Earlier this fall, Caleb shot a bear with his bow in the woods behind their home. He likes the idea of eating wild game.

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