



SD Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus - SF

# NEWSLETTER

**Quarterly Update: Spring 2023**



**SD GFP Mission:** We serve and connect people and families to the outdoor through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife resources

## Newsletter Content:

- Note From the Director
- Note from the Friends of The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls
- Note on Region 3 Wildlife
- A Look Back...at the Winter of 2022
- Campus Updates
- Programming Highlights
- Winter Program Booklet
- Upcoming Special Events
- Volunteering
- Concluding Notes



**OUTDOOR CAMPUS**  
— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

# David Parker

SF Campus Director

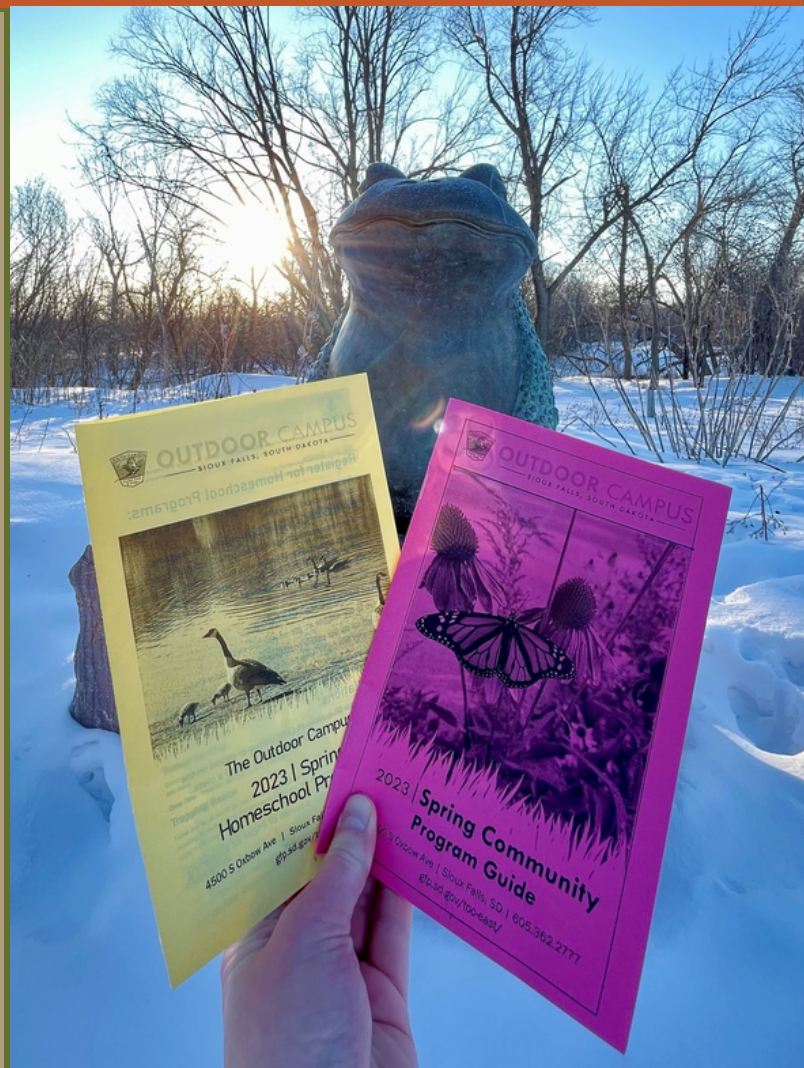


“Hey Folks, I cannot believe that 2022 is already done. If you are interested in learning more about the Campus program efforts, you can check out our Year End Review Document located on our Webpage.”

## Spring: What's Coming Up?

Spring is always a toss up when it comes to programming. We never know if we are going to still have tons of snow and ice or if things will be melted. Either way, we have our Spring Booklet out and registration opened on February 15th!

On another note, we are excited to announce that we are participating in the GFP State Parks "The Trails are Calling" Program! To learn more, go to:  
<https://gfp.sd.gov/hike2023/>





# Notes from The Friends of The Outdoor Campus SF

The Friends Board is thrilled to see the number of people who have enjoyed one of the many winter outdoor activities at the Campus. More families enjoyed cross country skiing and snow shoeing. At times more participants than we had equipment and staff to help. A good problem to have!!! Kids fished, caught and cleaned their fish, cooked them and then ate them. Lots of smiles!!! Staff and Board will be looking at how we can improve winter activities for next year. Friends Board continues to work on plans for expansion of the campus. This winter demonstrated the need for the expansion. Hope to see everyone return for spring programs.

## Members of the Board are:

Jan Nicolay  
Brian Klatt  
Tim Kromminga  
Amanda Oines  
Ryan Brown  
Royce Merritt  
Cheryl Ulvestad

Jeff Scherschligt  
Kathy Anderson  
Eric Olson  
Derek Maassen  
Eric Kurtz  
Kristina Coby  
Emmett Keyser  
David Parker



Board Chair

**Jan Nicolay**

FRIENDS OF THE



**OUTDOOR  
CAMPUS**

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —



# SD GFP Region 3 Wildlife Division

Often times wildlife biologists will refer to the winter months as a 'bottleneck', meaning a very difficult time, for wildlife and this winter has certainly born this out. Although wildlife generally put on sufficient fat reserves in the fall to help them survive South Dakota winters, the winter of 2022-2023 has posed a real challenge for wildlife across our state. Heavy snows that arrived late in December and early January covered waste grain, weeds, grass, browse and other available food sources that in many winters provide valuable food for pheasants, deer and other wildlife. In particular, deer have congregated in large groups across most of eastern South Dakota with some groups of deer numbering in the hundreds. Some of these groups of deer began to eat stored livestock feed supplies that ag producers were feeding to their livestock and as a result, GFP wildlife damage specialists and many other department staff have been helping livestock producers protect their hay, silage, corn and other livestock feed supplies by providing livestock panels and netting. In some situations, GFP has had to provide alternate feed, like alfalfa and corn, to 'short-stop' deer and keep them from coming into farms and other livestock feeding areas. While we were hoping for a February thaw, the latest round of snow will continue to pose a challenge for wildlife, livestock producers and GFP staff.

**Emmett Keyser**

Region 3 Wildlife Supervisor



Photo by Jim Thompson



# A Look Back at Winter 2022



## Dark House Spearing

This was a unique course we offered for the first time in Campus history. Dark house spearing is similar to ice fishing, but you utilize a decoy and a spear to target specific fish (instead of lures and a rod).

Due to the unique nature of the class, only being able to fit 4 people in an ice shack, and this year being the pilot, we chose to limit our offerings. This year we were able to take 12 people out dark house spearing, but look forward to offering more of these classes in the coming years!

## Snow and Go's!



One of the joys of winter is getting to snowshoe and cross country ski! With the amount of snow we got this winter, we were able to offer a variety of "Snow and Go" classes. These are open house, no registration required classes for skiing and snowshoeing that we offer!

## Ice Fishing



With the winter weather 2022-2023 has afforded us, we have gotten the opportunity to offer quite a few ice fishing classes, and the trout were definitely biting this season!

# Campus Updates

## Loaner Equipment



Made possible by generous donations from:

- Jan Nicolay
- Delta Waterfowl

LEARN MORE



### 2 New Waterfowl Loaner Trailers!

- 1 Located at the SF Campus
- 1 Located at the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center

### Contains:

- Full Body Decoys
- Shell Decoys
- Silhouette Decoys
- Flags
- Layout Blinds

Go to our website and click on

"Loaner Equipment"

<https://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/>

Did you know, that the Campus and the Wildlife Region 3 Office offers a variety of loaner equipment?!? In our efforts to help folks of all ages get out, enjoy the outdoors, and learn new things, we offer the following items for folks to check out and use!

### The Outdoor Campus:

- Critter Crates
- Snowshoes
- Decoy Trailers

NEW

### The Region 3 Office:

- Life Jackets
- Livetraps
- Decoy bags



# Campus Updates

Over the Winter of 2022-2023, GFP Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls and the City of Sioux Falls partnered to record an [Ice Safety Video](https://youtu.be/6M7vkif1Otc). The video, which is located on the GFP Education Channel (<https://youtu.be/6M7vkif1Otc>) goes over safety tips and tricks for what to do if you fall through the ice. Remember that no ice is safe ice, but this video gives you a better understanding of what best practice is for being on the ice.



## RECOMMENDED MINIMUM ICE THICKNESS

**3" OR LESS**  
STAY OFF THE  
ICE

**STAY  
OFF!**

**4"**  
SAFE TO WALK  
ON, ICE FISH  
OR SKATE



**5-6"**  
SNOWMOBILES  
AND ATVs



**8-12"**  
CARS AND  
OTHER SMALL  
VEHICLES



**12-15"**  
MEDIUM  
TRUCKS



# Campus Updates

## Raptor Rendezvous



On February 3rd, 2023 the Campus hosted Raptor Rendezvous! This is an annual special event that we host raising awareness about raptors (birds of prey), their importance to our local environment, and their adaptations. During the event we had the University of Minnesota Raptor Center do two presentations featuring live birds, a variety of crafts for kids, owl pellet dissection, and presentations by Lynn (our nights and weekends manager) with her educational bird, Ollie the Screech Owl.



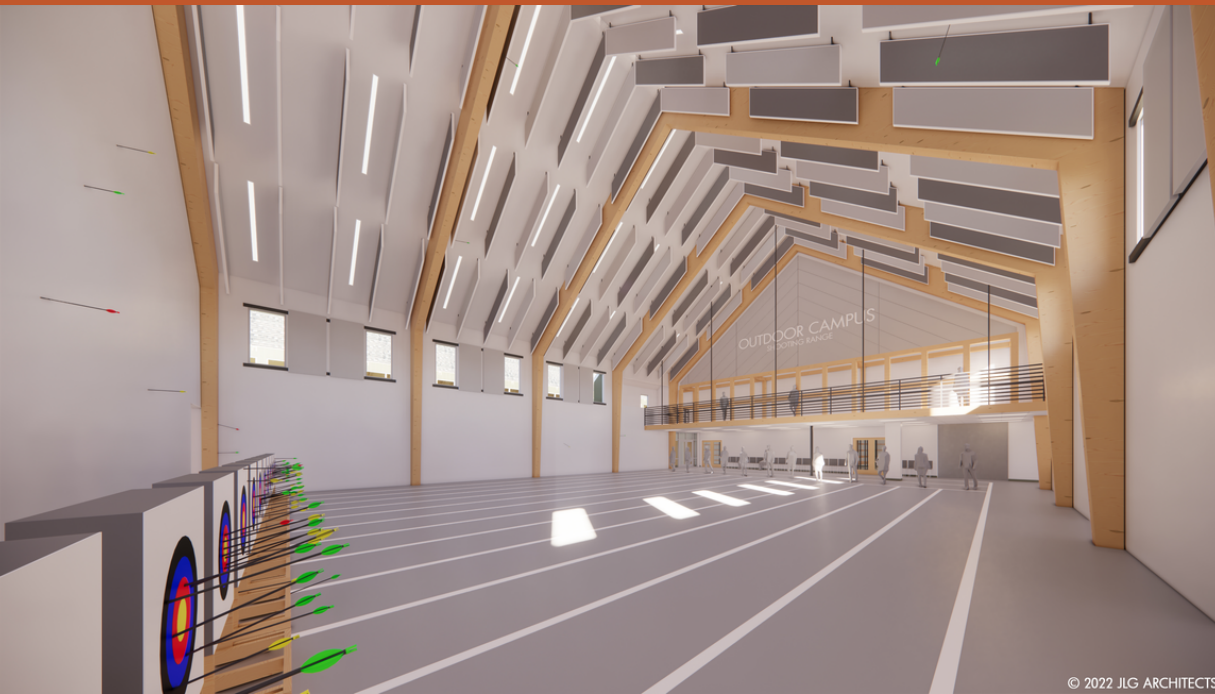
# Campus Updates

## 2023 GFP Education Conference



**On February 7-9th, 2023 the Game, Fish and Parks Education Team came together in Chamberlain, SD for our annual Education Conference. This conference provides staff with the opportunity to learn about educational efforts of both the Parks and Wildlife Divisions, hear from GFP leadership, and review our educational initiatives. As you can guess, with a bunch of educators in a room it lends itself to quite a fun time discussing and acting out winter adaptations!**

# Campus Expansion Update



We currently have  
**\$727,785** of our  
**\$3 Million** goal!



As many of you are aware, we are expanding! With Sioux Falls growing so quickly, we are work to grow our programming too. This has meant relooking at our building and how we can improve it to meet the communities needs. This includes updated classrooms, updated exhibits, restroom expansions, the addition of a nursing mothers room, the addition of a family restroom, an indoor archery range, and more!



Campus Spring 2023 Programming

# HIGHLIGHTS



## Learn to Fish!

On March 18th, we are going to have Ted Ellenbecker, a multi-species angler, multiple world record holder, nationally renowned speaker, and developer of "The Theory of Three" present at the Campus!

12:00 - 1:00 PM Locating Fish! Any Fish...on Any Water  
1:15 - 2:15 PM Catching Channel Catfish  
2:30 - 3:30 PM Walleye Fishing with Lure Color Techniques

Register for one or all three presentations. All ages welcome, recommended 16 and up, youth with an adult.

## Gear Swap and Giveaway!



Last year we piloted our first ever "Gear Swap and Giveaway" Event! The goal of this event was to take donated, used hunting and fishing gear, clean it up, and get it out to the next generation of hunters and anglers.

Given the interest in this event, we are going to host it again this year! We are also going to expand the event by taking donations for not only hunting and fishing gear, but also trapping and other outdoor recreation gear.

Like last year, the event date won't be until late summer, but we are now taking donations! If you have any old and gently used gear that you no longer use, we will gladly take it and get it out to new outdoor users!

Reminder: we do not take firearms or ammunition.

Learn more about our Programming <https://gfp.sd.gov/east-programs/>

# Hunting 101: Spring Turkey Hunts



**Application due:  
March 18 by 5 pm**

This unique opportunity will walk students through safety, turkey hunting tactics, how to use turkey calls and decoys, how to properly care for and process a harvested turkey, and the hunt.

Selection for this educational hunt will be based on an application that can be found online ([gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/](http://gfp.sd.gov/toc-east/)) or a hard copy can be picked up at the Campus.

Students will only be allowed to hunt with a GFP Employee or GFP sanctioned Volunteer Mentor. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.



# Spring 2023 Programming Booklets



## Shot Gun Basics

Saturday, May 13, 10-11:30 AM

This class will give hands-on learning in a safe environment with skilled instructors. All equipment provided. Program held off site.

Check out these Classes!

## Incorporating Pollinator Plots in Your Garden

Thursday, March 23, 6:00-7:30 PM

Learn how to include healthy pollinator plants and where to start in your vegetable garden! Add a pop of color and have beneficial insect activity for this years plants.

Program meant for adults ages 16 and up.

Our Spring 2023 Program Booklets came out February 1! You can swing by the Campus to pick up a hard copy or you can check them out online:

<https://gfp.sd.gov/east-programs/>

Registration for Spring Programs is open and ongoing.



Need Help? Give us a call at 605-362-2777  
Or  
Give the Kalkomey Help Desk a call at 1-800-684-9541



South Dakota

EVENTS

Programs

Login/Register >>



## South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks: Educational Event Management



Have you registered through our new Kalkomey registration system?

To register, go to: <https://southdakota.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/programs>

# Campus Volunteers

Volunteers were busy this winter assisting with Hunting 101, rod building, ice fishing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing programs. Staff would not have been able to host so many Snow & Go open houses without the help of our dedicated volunteers! Thank you for helping us get the people of Sioux Falls outside this winter!

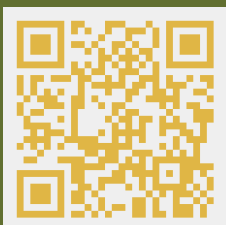
While it's been fun having the chance to host so many winter programs, staff and volunteers are eagerly awaiting the return of our spring and summer programming. Between November 2022 and March 2023, volunteers donated over 1,000 hours of service to the Outdoor Campus-Sioux Falls. Thank you, volunteers, for all your help throughout the winter months! Our open house events, Raptor Rendezvous, Hunting 101, and numerous other program would not be possible without your continued assistance.

## Paige O'Farrell

SDGFP Outdoor Campus SF



**Want to become a  
Volunteer Mentor?**







# OUTDOOR CAMPUS

— SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA —

## 25 Years of Programming 25 Years of Growing



If you want to give to the Campus Expansion, to help us continue growing in the next 25 years go to:

<https://www.parkswildlifeoundation.org/projects/outdoor-campus-sioux-falls-expansion>

