Bald Eagle Awareness Days Highlights

February 12-22, 2014

Dear Bald Eagle Awareness Days partners,

On behalf of the Bald Eagle Days Steering Committee I would again like to thank you for your participation. The following pages provide highlights of the events held, each of which were a great success due to your contributions. We hope to keep your support in the future.

-Casey Heimerl, SDGFP

2014 Bald Eagle Awareness Days Partners

- Bank West
- Black Hills Raptor Center
- Fisher Rounds & Associates
- South Dakota Missouri River Tourism
- High Plains Wildlife Association
- Missouri Breaks Chapter of the National Audubon Society
- Oahe Wildlife Center
- Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League
- South Dakota Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society
- South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks
- South Dakota National Wild Turkey Federation
- South Dakota Ornithologists’ Union
- South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation
- Today’s KCCR
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Thursday, Feb. 20th – Raptor Rendezvous at the SDGFP Outdoor Campus East in Sioux Falls

The Sioux Falls program featured great hands-on activities including bald eagle cookie making.

Kate Hanson with The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota displays a great-horned owl during the live raptor presentation. Close to 80 people attended the Sioux Falls Raptor Rendezvous.
“Just a quick note about the Raptor program last night. We brought our 2 and 4 year old, and we had a blast. The kids haven’t stopped talking about it today. We hadn’t attended a TOC program together as a family before, and this was so much more than I expected. The crafts, raffle, snacks and (as always) staff and volunteers were great – not to mention the actual presentation.”

“We had such a good time. Thank you!”

“THANK YOU for bringing in the Raptor Program. It was FABULOUS and we completely enjoyed it. The birds were amazing and that presenter was tops – we could have peppered her with questions for hours. We truly appreciate the Outdoor Campus.”

Friday, Feb. 21st – Programs for students at Lower Brule Schools

The Raptor Center educators provided live raptor presentations for students at the Lower Brule Elementary School and Lower Brule Middle/High School. Approximately 50-100 students attended each program.
Saturday, Feb. 22nd – Raptor Open House at the SDGFP Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City

The Raptor Open House in Rapid City also featured craft making and a live raptor presentation by the Black Hills Raptor Center.

John Halverson and assistants can be seen displaying screech owls (below left) and a ferruginous hawk (below right).
Saturday, Feb. 22nd – Live raptor programs in Pierre

Three presentations were held at the Pierre Ramkota in conjunction with the KCCR Farm, Home and Sports show. Total attendance from all programs was approximately 350 people.

Kate Hanson from The Raptor Center exhibits a bald eagle.
A peregrine falcon (top) and merlin (bottom) were also featured during the programs.
Bald Eagle Days also held a statewide bookmark contest for 5th grade students. Winners received a prize and were recognized during the Ramkota programs.

Winning bookmarks will be printed and distributed at public libraries.

**Best Artwork (top)**
Zach Dufeck
Castlewood Elementary
Ms. McClure’s class

**Honorable Mention – Best Artwork (left)**
Jenna Lopez
Pierre
Ms. Homan’s class
Best Conservation Message (top)
Hannah Cuka
Tyndall Elementary
Mrs. Moore’s class

Honorable Mention – Best Conservation Message (left)
Darah Dekam
Castlewood Elementary
Ms. McClure’s class
Most Creative (left)
Marty Hebb
Ft. Pierre
Mrs. Mehlhuff’s class

Honorable Mention – Most Creative (right)
Michael Wainman
Gettysburg
Mrs. Simon’s class
Bald Eagle Awareness Days Steering Committee
Charlene Bessken, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Casey Heimerl, SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Maggie Lindsey, SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Russ Somsen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Eileen Dowd Stukel, SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks