

# PRAIRIE NEWS

<http://SD-PheasantHunting.com>  
1-855-SD Lodge

April 2014

35451 253<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Kimball, SD 57355

April is such a busy month, filled with both positives and negatives. The biggest hurdle is tax day, although with a bit of planning and organization, one can file early and then sit back and smile at others struggling to finish on time. For the true procrastinator, there is also the option to file an extension even though that only provides a brief delay of the inevitable.



And of course, April Fool's Day starts the month on a lighter note. Deer & Deer Hunting produced this amazing photo of a whitetail deer with more than 50 scorable points, supposedly from northern Wisconsin. The Houston Press reported that a hunt-your-own-dinner restaurant was opening. The story claimed that a Kenyan-based restaurant was coming to the United States, and customers would pick their own table-fare from the garden and harvest their own meat.

April also has some fun holidays – Passover, Easter, Arbor Day, Earth Day, Patriot's Day, and Secretaries Day. In addition, April is Autism Awareness Month and National Poetry Month. There are some less well-known special days too:

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|----------|--------------------------------------|
| April 2  | National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day |
| April 7  | Caramel Popcorn Day                  |
| April 10 | National Siblings Day                |
| April 22 | National Jelly Bean Day              |
| April 27 | National Prime Rib Day               |

## **Lodge Update:**

With nesting season starting for our pheasants, we have been focusing on predator control. Around some of our prime nesting habitat, we have placed live traps and are catching quite a few pests – mostly raccoons and opossum. In case you missed this photo on our Facebook page, this raccoon was a very large specimen. So far, we haven't caught any skunks.



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In February, we provided an overview of retrievers and their special talent for upland hunting. Continuing our hunting dog theme, last month we assembled some information about pointers, another popular choice for many of our hunters. Now we can review the third type of hunting dog – the flusher.

**Flushers:**

A flushing dog is a gundog trained to flush game, especially birds, by first finding the game then driving it from its hiding place for a hunter to shoot or capture. Flushing dogs are different from other gundog types such as pointers and setters, dogs which remain still after locating the game, or retrievers, dogs that fetch the game after it has been shot. Some types of dogs have been specially bred for flushing ability, such as cockers and other spaniels. Other breeds of gundog are also often trained as flushing dogs, especially retrievers. Most flushing dogs are very people-friendly and make excellent companions and pets.



- Hunting Strengths – Flushing breeds are generally smaller in stature than many pointing and retrieving counterparts. They will quarter in front of the hunter to flush birds and should also stay within comfortable gun range. Like Retrievers, they are very comfortable in water and have coats that are well suited to extreme cold. Flushers will naturally retrieve to hand and are well known for their stamina.



- Common Breeds – Boykin Spaniel, English Cocker Spaniel and English Springer Spaniel.

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**Prairie Puzzle:**

The answer to last month’s question about the Kennel Club emblem was Westminster. Congratulations to our winner: Mr. Harrison from Arizona.

April question: ***Which of these special days are celebrated in April?***

- a) World Penguin Day
- b) National Honesty Day
- c) Pig in a Blanket Day
- d) All of the above

Please submit your answer by May 15, 2014 to be included in the prize drawing for a free Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort hunting hat. Responses will be accepted via mail, phone, or email. Good luck!