



BUFFALOBERRY PATCH

BY GREG FREEMAN, DEPARTMENT NEWS EDITOR

Hunter Education Volunteers Recognized

Volunteer instructors for North Dakota's hunter education program were recently recognized for their contributions of teaching the importance of hunter safety and ethics.

Years of service and instructor of the year awards were presented to volunteers in February at the annual hunter education workshop and awards banquet in Bismarck. The instructor of the year award is based on years of service, classes taught, in-service training and involvement in the community with firearms safety.

Mike Kiernan from West Fargo, Al Klatt from Grand Forks, and Beulah-Hazen instructors Lori Schweigert and Clyde Grosz were named instructors of the year.

Volunteer hunter education instructors were also recognized for years of service.

30 years – John Jones, Mandan; Steven Seeger, Turtle Lake; Jim Shulind, Grand Forks; Ernest Trudeau, Jamestown.

25 years – Timothy Dewald, Streeter; Jim Gross, Mandan; Rodney O'Clair, Jamestown; Duane Tollefson, Bismarck; Lyle Westbrook, Moffit; Doug Olschlager, Harvey.

20 years – Darwin Bucholz, Rolla; Terry Fasteen, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; Juel Halstenson, West Fargo; Richard Harwood, Lemmon, S.D.; Susan Harwood, Lemmon, South Dakota; Fritz Hirschhorn, McClusky; Robert Ingold, Manning; Thomas Kempf, Sawyer; Dennis Miller, Mandan; Lynda Miller, Mandan; Scott Mitchell, Rolla; Michael Peterson, Hazen; Robert Schwagler, New Salem; Joe Solseng, Grand Forks; Todd Thingelstad, Grand Forks; Lauren Throntveit, Crosby; Albert Ulmer, LaMoure.

15 years – James Alfonso, Devils Lake; Mark Berg, Nortonville; Douglas Bolte, Regent; James Borkowski, Bottineau; Jack Brown, Dickinson; Dean Burwick, Dickinson; Gary Ertmann, Devils Lake; Gerard Goldade, Hague; Jerry Hansen, Deering; Thomas Hanson, Minot; Craig Hoffart, Bottineau; Ruth Hubbard, Minot; James R. Johnson, New Rockford; Alan Klatt, Grand Forks; George Koenig, Gackle; Lynn Lawler, Rolla; Lee Leines, Grandin; Glenn A. Lemier, Oakes; Richard Leshovsky, Minot; David Meberg,



Instructors of the year, from left: Clyde Grosz, Hazen; Lori Schweigert, Beulah; Chris Grondahl, Department outreach supervisor; Al Klatt, Grand Forks; and Mike Kiernan, West Fargo.



Hunter education 30-year service award recipients, from left, Ernie Trudeau, Jamestown; Jim Shulind, Grand Forks; Chris Grondahl, Department outreach supervisor; and John Jones, Mandan. Steve Seeger, Turtle Lake, is not pictured.



Hunter education 25-year service award recipients, from left: Rodney O'Clair, Jamestown; Lyle Westbrook, Moffit; Jim Gross, Mandan; Chris Grondahl, Department outreach supervisor; Tim Dewald, Streeter; Doug Olschlager, Harvey; and Duane Tollefson, Bismarck.

Fargo; Karla Meikle, Bismarck; Charles Miller, Raleigh; Brad Pierce, Hatton; Doyle Roeder, Milnor; Lance Sateren, Bismarck; Daryl Simmons, Garrison; Patricia Stark, Cavalier; Curtis Walen, Carrington; Charles Wittenberg, Bismarck.

10 years – Joel Braaten, Leeds; Larry Brooks, Bottineau; Bob Campbell, Hannaford; Darryl Duttonhefner, Menoken; Kathleen Duttonhefner, Menoken; Scott Fasteen, Bismarck; Anthony Galow, Bisbee; Sean Hagan, Walhalla; Roland Heiser, Watford City; Paul Jacobson, Max; Doyle Johannes, Underwood; Brad Kilde, Glen Ullin; Bruce Krabseth, Alamo; Joe Lautenschlager, Berthold; Doug Leier, West Fargo; Marty Liesener, Ray; Richard Liesener, Ray; Zachary Lindemann, Mandan; Mike Marquette, Rutland; Ronald Nord, Adams; Brad Olson, Bowbells; Dale Patrick Sr., Bismarck; Mike Rieger, Tioga; Glen Sargeant, Jamestown; Wayne Stanley, Stanley; Shawn Tennyson, Fargo; Paul Vasquez, Grand Forks.

New Fishing, Furbearer Licenses Needed April 1

Anglers and furbearer hunters and trappers are reminded that new fishing and furbearer licenses are required April 1. The dates for the furbearer license coincide with fishing season. The 2007-08 licenses are effective April 1 to March 31, 2008.

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS
Live!

With Radio Host Doug Leier, Game and Fish Outreach Biologist
Saturdays – 11 a.m. (10 a.m. mountain time)

on the following radio stations:
 *KFGD-AM 750, Fargo • KKRL-AM 1440, Grand Forks
 • KCJB-AM 910, Minot
 • KUTC-AM 1480, Dickinson • KFYY-AM 550, Bismarck
 • KFAN-AM 1130, Twin Cities, Saturdays at 5 a.m.
 (Time delay from previous week)

Join Doug and guests for news and conversation that embraces everyone with an interest in North Dakota's Outdoors.

Prairie Grouse Blinds to Open

Several national wildlife refuges and a state wildlife management area will offer sharp-tailed grouse observation blinds for public use this spring. The blinds are popular with wildlife photographers and others interested in watching the spring courtship rituals of sharp-tailed grouse.

Grouse blinds typically receive a lot of interest and are available by reservation only. Those locations offering blinds usually start taking reservations for late March or early April, weather permitting. Peak grouse dancing activity usually occurs from mid-to-late April or early May.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has an observation blind at Lonetree Wildlife Management Area southwest of Harvey. Reservations can be made by calling 324-2211.

Contact the following national wildlife refuges for information on blind reservations:

- Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge, Kenmare, 848-2722.
- Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, Kenmare, 385-4046.
- Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Moffit, 387-4397.
- Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge, Pingree, 285-3341.
- Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge, Berthold, 468-5467.
- J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge, Upham, 768-2548.

Paddlefish Snagging Change

North Dakota's paddlefish snagging season, which opens May 1, has closed early the last three seasons, leaving some people left holding special paddlefish tags without ever wetting a line in the Yellowstone or Missouri rivers.

That will change as an adjustment to the two-year fishing proclamation will allow an option of snag-and-release-only for up to seven days after the regular season closes, or until May 31, whichever comes first.

For several years, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and its counterparts in Montana have established a maximum harvest of 1,000 paddlefish in each state. Paddlefish snaggers in North Dakota reached that overall harvest quota in 2005 and 2006 about halfway through May. In 2004, it took 28 days before the limit was reached.

Paddlefish have been more susceptible to snaggers the last few years, forcing Department officials to close the seasons early, as low flows in the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers concentrate fish.

Greg Power, Department fisheries chief, said scientists have studied the consequences of those paddlefish snagged and released, and mortality is negligible. "Montana has had a snag-and-release season for a long time," he said. "They often tag these fish and we catch them later in our nets and the fish are doing fine."

Power said paddlefish have a remarkable ability to mend themselves quickly from injury.

Legal snagging hours are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. One tag per snagger will be issued. Snag-and-release of all paddlefish

will still be required on Mondays and Tuesdays. Those planning to participate during the snag-and-release-only days will need to have in their possession a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag. Since all snagged fish on the snag-and-release days must be released, the use or possession of gaffs is prohibited on Mondays and Tuesdays and, if it occurs, during the snag-and-release extension period.

During the other five days of the week, mandatory harvest of all snagged paddlefish is required. The use or possession of a gaff within one half mile in either direction of the N.D. Highway 200 bridge on the Yellowstone River is illegal at any time during the snagging season.

Snagging is legal in all areas of the Yellowstone River in North Dakota, and in the area of the Missouri River lying west of the U.S. Highway 85 bridge to the Montana border, excluding that portion from the pipeline crossing (river mile 1,577) downstream to the upper end of the Lewis and Clark Wildlife Management Area (river mile 1,565). If there's an extended snag-and-release period only the area immediately around the confluence will be open to this snagging opportunity.

Maps of the open and closed areas are available at all paddlefish tag vendors, and can be accessed on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website at gf.nd.gov.

Cost of a paddlefish tag is \$3 for residents and \$7.50 for nonresidents. Refer to the 2006-08 North Dakota Fishing Guide for additional information.

INSTANT LICENSING

Online at gf.nd.gov or by phone
800-406-6409

Most types of Game and Fish licenses and applications are available both online at the Department's website, or over the phone. Online license purchases have no surcharge, while instant licensing over the phone carries a service charge of \$4 for transactions of \$70 or less, and \$10 if the cost is more than \$70.

Boating Basics for Youngsters

Youngsters ages 12-15 wanting to operate a boat or personal watercraft with at least a 10 horsepower motor must first pass the state's Boating Basics Course. The course is free and available for home-study from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Bismarck office, or in a classroom setting held periodically around the state.

The Boating Basics Course isn't just for kids. Major insurance companies give adult boat owners who pass the course a premium discount on boat insurance.

The course covers legal requirements, navigation rules, getting underway, accidents and special topics such as weather, rules of the road, laws, life saving and first aid.

For more information on Boating Basics write to Nancy Boldt, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095; or call 328-6300.



WARDEN STORIES

Photographic Evidence

By Mike Raasakka



Mike Raasakka

“Double-dipping” or “double-tripping” is the illegal practice of catching a limit of fish early in the day, going into shore, cleaning or storing the fish, then going out later and catching more of the same species, thereby exceeding the “daily” limit. It’s a common violation when fishing is good on Lake Sakakawea.

Over the years game wardens have tried a lot of ways to detect double-dipping. One of them is spending a fair amount of time at boat ramps in plainclothes, watching and listening to the people who return from the water and clean their fish at lakeside cleaning stations.

One early July morning a couple of years back I was hanging out at the boat ramp on Sakakawea’s Van Hook Arm. Dressed like any average fisherman, I approached a group of anglers who were about to clean a limit of walleyes.

“How was the fishing?” I asked as I approached the shelter where the cleaning table and refuse grinder was located.

In unison, they replied that it was one of the best days they ever had. One gentleman asked if I wouldn’t mind taking a picture of them with their memorable catch before they started filleting. I did just that and continued on my way.

Several hours later I had put on my uniform and began checking boaters and anglers as they came in for the day.

Many of the ramps on Sakakawea are associated with camping and recreation areas and it’s not unusual, nor illegal, for people to fish in the morning, take some time off, then go back out in the afternoon

or evening. So I was not really surprised when the anglers I had photographed earlier came up the ramp with their boat in tow.

When I inspected the livewell and noted additional walleyes, I was a bit surprised that they still seemed rather happy with their catch. Then it occurred to me that none of them recognized me in uniform as the same friendly gentleman who took their picture that same morning.

When I questioned them about catching a limit of fish earlier in the day, they predictably denied it. “I think you were out earlier,” I responded. “I think you had a picture taken. In fact, I took the picture.”

You could see them mentally trying to match up the face of the game warden with the face of the everyday angler who so graciously agreed to snap their picture. When the moment of recognition came, they were still reluctant to admit guilt until I asked rather sternly if it would be necessary to seize their camera.

Game wardens get many leads on double-dipping from anglers who see others taking more than their fair share of the resource. Some calls come in through the Report All Poachers hotline, some are direct calls from concerned people. We discover other violations through persistent observation of boats on the water and at ramps.

It’s also not unheard of for game wardens to find evidence of wildlife violations on videotapes or in photographs, but it’s not every day the game warden is the one taking the pictures, and the violators were happy to have him do it.

MIKE RAASAKKA is the Department’s district warden at Stanley.



Jeff Long, Department education coordinator, with Sherry Niesar, Conservation Educator of the Year.



Jeff Long, Department education coordinator, with Duane Schatz, Elgin, Fishing Instructor of the Year.

Conservation Education Volunteers Recognized

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department recently acknowledged the efforts of many volunteers who make the agency’s conservation education projects successful. Years of service and instructor of the year awards were presented to volunteers at the annual volunteer banquet in Bismarck.

Sherry Niesar, Bismarck, was named Conservation Educator of the Year; Duane Schatz, Elgin, was recognized as Hooked on Fishing Instructor of the Year; and John Gorman, Grand Forks Air Force Base, was named Boating and Water Safety Instructor of the Year.

In addition, volunteers recognized for 10 or more years of service were:

20 years – Gerald Roth, Mandan.

15 years – Tony Aman, Center; Wayne Beyer, Wahpeton; Charles Deremer, Fargo; David Fennern, Bismarck; Robert Martin, Jamestown.

10 years – Robert Lawson, West Fargo.

Free Fishing Days June 2-3

Make sure to mark June 2-3 on your calendar. This is the weekend North Dakota residents may fish without a license, except for paddlefish. All other fishing regulations apply.

Refer to the 2006-08 North Dakota Fishing Guide for season information. Then gather the kids and go fishing.



GAME & FISH STAFF NOTES



Gene Van Eeckhout (left) receives his award from Jason Lee, Dakota Chapter AFS president.

Van Eeckhout Receives AFS Award

Gene Van Eeckhout received the 2006 Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Distinguished Professional Service Award in February.

Van Eeckhout was promoted to Game and Fish Department southeast district fisheries supervisor in 2003. He started with the Department in 1976 as a district fisheries manager.

Van Eeckhout, an AFS life member, received his Bachelor of Science degree in fisheries and wildlife biology in 1971 from the University of North Dakota and Master of Science in 1974, also from UND, for life history research on channel catfish in the Little Missouri River.

Butler Hired as Wildlife Veterinarian

Erika Butler was hired February 1 as the Department's wildlife veterinarian. She had been employed with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources working principally on avian influenza, chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis issues.

Butler received a Bachelor of Science degree in fish and wildlife biology from the University of North Dakota, and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine, specializing in wildlife disease investigation and surveillance.



Erika Butler

Fecske, Elstad Recognized by Wildlife Federation

Dorothy Fecske and Scott Elstad were recognized in January by the North Dakota Wildlife Federation as conservationists of the year.

Fecske, Department furbearer biologist, was named 2007 Wildlife Conservationist of the Year. Elstad, Department aquatic habitat supervisor, was named 2007 State Conservationist of the Year.



Dorothy Fecske



Scott Elstad

Fisheries Biologists Relocate

Emil Berard's retirement has led to a number of fisheries biologists moving to new locations.

Jeff Hendrickson has transferred from Riverdale to Dickinson to replace Berard as southwest district supervisor. Jason Lee moved from Bismarck to Riverdale as north central district supervisor, and Paul Bailey relocated from Riverdale to Bismarck as south central district supervisor.

In addition, two biologists will now focus their attention on Missouri River System issues. Dave Fryda, supervisor, and Russ Kinzler, biologist, are stationed in Riverdale.



Jeff Hendrickson



Jason Lee



Paul Bailey



Dave Fryda



Russ Kinzler

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS
On Television

3 KIML-TV WILLISTON KJMV - Tuesday - 10 pm KJMD - Monday - noon	30 KJMC-TV BENOT KJMT - Tuesday - 10 pm KJMC - Monday - noon	KJMB GRAND FORKS KJMB - Wednesday - 5 pm
7 KJMA-TV DICKINSON KJMD - Tuesday - 9 pm (MT) KJMA - Sunday - 9 pm (MT)	5 KJMB-TV BISMARCK KJMB - Tuesday - 10 pm KJMB - Sunday - 10 pm CATV - Saturday - 8:30 am	FOX FARGO KJVR - Sunday - 9 pm

Berard Retires

Emil Berard, longtime fisheries biologist for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, retired in January after 35 years of service with the agency.

Berard started his career in 1972 as a district biologist in Riverdale. In 1991 he transferred to Dickinson as a district supervisor. In 2003, Berard was inducted into the North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame.

"Emil was instrumental in making the Missouri River System fishery nationally renowned," said Greg Power, Department fisheries chief. "North Dakota anglers, today and yesterday, all have benefited from his 35 years of experience."

