



BUFFALOBERRY PATCH

By GREG FREEMAN, DEPARTMENT NEWS EDITOR



RON WILSON

CWD Test Results All Negative

Samples taken from North Dakota deer, elk and moose during the 2007 hunting season have tested negative for chronic wasting disease.

Last fall, samples were taken from more than 1,200 deer in the eastern third of the state, and nearly 60 elk and moose, and were sent to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

Dr. Erika Butler, North Dakota Game and Fish Department wildlife veterinarian, said the Department will continue its sampling efforts in central North Dakota in 2008, and the western third of the state in 2009.

“This couldn’t have been accomplished without the cooperation of hunters, meat processors, taxidermists and local establishments,” Butler added. “They are very willing to help out with this important issue.”

In addition, the Department will continue to test any suspect or high risk cases throughout the year.

Since 2002, more than 10,100 deer, nearly 300 elk and 31 moose in North Dakota have tested negative for CWD. To date, CWD has not been diagnosed in wild or farmed cervids in North Dakota, though it has been found in surrounding states.

Chronic wasting disease affects the nervous system of members of the deer family and is always fatal. Scientists have found no evidence that CWD can be transmitted naturally to humans or livestock.

New Fishing, Furbearer Licenses Needed

Hunters, trappers and anglers are reminded that new fishing and furbearer licenses are required April 1.

The dates for the furbearer license coincide with the fishing season. 2008-09 licenses are effective April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

Anglers are also reminded this is the first year of the new two-year fishing proclamation. Refer to the 2008-10 North Dakota Fishing Guide for regulations.

NORTH DAKOTA
OUTDOORS
On Television

Region	Station	Day	Time
WILLISTON	KJMD-TV	Tuesday	10 pm
WILLISTON	KXMD-TV	Monday	noon
DICKINSON	KQCD-TV	Tuesday	9 pm (MT)
DICKINSON	KXMA-TV	Sunday	8 pm (MT)
MINOT	KMOT-TV	Tuesday	10 pm
MINOT	KXMC-TV	Monday	noon
BISMARCK	KFYR-TV	Tuesday	10 pm
BISMARCK	KXMB-TV	Sunday	10 pm
BISMARCK	CATV	Saturday	9:30 am
GRAND FORKS	WDAZ-TV	Wednesday	5 pm
FARGO	KVRR-TV	Sunday	9 pm

NORTH DAKOTA RECORD FISH

Species	Weight	Where	When	Angler	Minimum Whopper Weight	Minimum Catch & Release Club
GAME FISH						
Northern Pike	37 lbs. 8 oz.	Sakakawea	1968	M. Slind, Roseglen	20 lbs.	32 inches
Walleye	15 lbs. 12 oz.	Wood Lake	1959	B. Chapman, Minnewaukan	8 lbs.*	25 inches*
Saugeye	11 lbs. 12 oz.	Sakakawea	1984	David Groth, Williston	8 lbs.	25 inches
Sauger	8 lbs. 12 oz.	Sakakawea	1971	M. Fischer, Chaseley	4 lbs.	20 inches
Yellow Perch	2 lbs. 15 oz.	Devils Lake	1982	Kyle Smith, Carrington	1 3/4 lbs.	13 inches
Bluegill	2 lbs. 12 oz.	Strawberry Lake	1963	B. Hystad, Velva	1 1/2 lbs.	11 inches
Crappie	3 lbs. 4 oz.	Lake Oahe	1998	Don Newcomb, Mandan	1 1/2 lbs.	13 inches
White Bass	4 lbs. 8 oz.	Devils Lake	2000	Jordon Neve, Albert Lea, MN	3 lbs.	16 inches
Largemouth Bass	8 lbs. 7 1/2 oz.	Nelson Lake	1983	Leon Rixen, Minot	5 lbs.	18 inches
Smallmouth Bass	6 lbs. 13 oz.	Lake Darling	2007	Bruce Elberg, Burlington	3 lbs.	16 inches
Tiger Muskie	40 lbs.	Gravel Lake	1975	Marvin Lee, Rolette	20 lbs.	40 inches
Muskellunge, Pure	46 lbs. 8 oz.	New Johns Lake	2007	Cory Bosch, Mandan	20 lbs.	40 inches
Channel Catfish	33 lbs. 4 oz.	Red River	1991	Bruce Pannkuk, Mpls., MN	12 lbs.	30 inches
Ling	18 lbs. 4 oz.	Knife River	1984	O. Kruckenberg, Hazen	8 lbs.	28 inches
Rainbow Trout	21 lbs. 4 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1998	Wade Weltz, Anamoose	5 lbs.	21 inches
Brown Trout	31 lbs. 11 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	2005	Timmy Johansen, Beulah	5 lbs.	21 inches
Cutthroat Trout	10 lbs. 1 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	2003	Chris Vernon, Bismarck	5 lbs.	21 inches
Lake Trout	14 lbs. 4 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1982	Allen Leier, Bismarck	5 lbs.	24 inches
Chinook Salmon	31 lbs. 2 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1986	Tom Schwartz, Beulah	12 lbs.	
Paddlefish	120 lbs.	Missouri River	1993	Brian W. Johnson, Williston	70 lbs.	
NONGAME FISH						
Whitefish	8 lbs. 11 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	1984	Bill Mitzel, Bismarck	4 lbs.	
Cisco	2 lbs. 8 oz.	Garrison Tailrace	2000	Scott Borup, Jr. and Tylor Borup, Pick City	1 3/4 lbs.	
Bullhead	4 lbs. 1 oz.	Devils Lake	1988	Riley Zavada, Wolford	2 lbs.	
Drum	26 lbs. 2 oz.	Sakakawea	1988	Larry Harris, Sidney, MT.	6 lbs.	
Buffalo	40 lbs.	Lake Tschida	2002	Trey Opp, Mandan	15 lbs.	
Carp	31 lbs.	Sheyenne River	2003	Austin Loberg, Thompson	15 lbs.	
Goldeye	3 lbs. 13 oz.	New Johns Lake	1998	Craig Unser, Mandan	2 lbs.	

Whopper Club, Catch and Release Club, and all new state record fish entries must be legally caught on hook and line during the open fishing season.

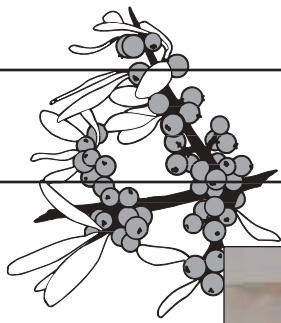
**This includes Zander in Spiritwood Lake.*

Whopper/Catch and Release Club Program

Anglers who think they have caught a bigger-than-average fish are reminded to check the qualifications of the North Dakota Whopper and Catch and Release Club programs.

The Game and Fish Department offers a Whopper Club for anglers who catch a fish that meets a minimum weight. In addition, the Catch and Release Club recognizes anglers who catch a fish that meets a minimum length requirement and return it unharmed to the water.

To learn more about these programs, and to see a complete listing of North Dakota state record fish, access the Game and Fish Department's website, gf.nd.gov, and click on the fishing link; or refer to the 2008-10 North Dakota Fishing Guide.



Sharp-tailed Grouse Observation Blinds

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 considerable 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-April through early May.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has an observation blind at Lonetree Wildlife Management Area southwest of Harvey. Call 701-324-2211 for reservations.

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

- Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge, Kenmare, 701-848-2722.
- Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, Kenmare, 701-385-4046.
- Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Moffit, 701-387-4397.
- Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge, Pingree, 701-285-3341.
- Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge, Berthold, 701-468-5467.
- J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge, Upham, 701-768-2548.



Rick Tischaefel, Butte, Conservation Educator of the Year.



Joe Neuenschwander, Bismarck, Hooked on Fishing Instructor of the Year.



Bill Melaas, Garrison, Boating and Water Safety Instructor of the Year.

Conservation Education Volunteers Recognized

Each year, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department acknowledges the efforts of many volunteers who make the agency's conservation education projects successful.

For 2007, Rick Tischaefel, Butte, was named Conservation Educator of the Year; Joe Neuenschwander, Bismarck, was recognized as Hooked on Fishing Instructor of the Year; and Bill Melaas, Garrison, was named Boating and Water Safety Instructor of the Year.

A special projects award also recognizing individuals who devote an extraordinary amount of time and effort toward development of a new project. Acknowledged for developing the Fur Harvester Education project were John Paulson, Bismarck; Bob Gangl, St. Anthony; Rick and Chris Tischaefel, Butte; and Marty Beard, Mandan.

In addition, volunteers recognized for a decade or more of service were:

15 years – Ottmar and Mary Barth, Mandan; and Robert Haglund, Garrison.

10 years – Roger Kotchian, Hickson and Joe Neuenschwander, Bismarck.



Special Volunteer Projects Award winners, from left, Chris and Rick Tischaefel, both Butte, Bob Gangl, St. Anthony, and John Paulson, Bismarck. Marty Beard, Mandan, is not pictured.

Hunter Education Volunteers Recognized

Volunteer instructors for North Dakota's hunter education program were recognized at their annual hunter education workshop and awards banquet.

Gary Leslie, Minot; Richard Cheatley, Parshall; and Roger Krueger and Mark Volk, both Bismarck, were named instructors of the year.

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

35 years – Lorne Sterner, Casselton.

30 years – Philip Degenstein, Rugby; Eugene Howard, Rugby; Larry Kaul, LaMoure; Michael Porter, Bottineau; Harold Randall, Grand Forks; Thomas Reiten, Grand Forks; Louis Siemieniowski, Forman; Mark Sletten, Hatton; and Barry Townsend, LaMoure.

25 years – Michael Aamot, Makoti; Wayne Evans, Stanley; James Hastings, Jamestown; David Just, Beulah; Earle Lien, Harwood; Walden Schmidt, Bisbee; and Lori Schweigert, Beulah.

20 years – Mervin Adams, Thompson; Timothy Bohlman, Thompson; Daniel Brown, Dickinson; Carl Buchweitz, Munich; David Cox, Minot; David Fisher, Center; Leroy Flegel, Medina; Betty Gunderson, Kulm; Duane Hawk, Wolford; Alvin Hottman, Dawson; Timothy Johnson, Parshall; Bob Kelly, Valley City; Roger Krueger, Bismarck; John Lamsters, Stanton; Kevin Lech, Mandan; Charles Meikle, Spiritwood; Vaughn Quern, Thompson; Joseph Simon, Thompson; Gary Stefanovsky, Bismarck; Myles Stoller, Elgin; and Gary Symanowski, Scranton.

15 years – Richard Bahm, Mandan; Curt Beattie, Hannaford; Mark Biel, Bismarck; Jeff Bjugstad, Wahpeton; Myron Brager, Sibley; Kimberly Bren, Elgin; Jim Carter, Bismarck; Richard Christ, Valley City; David Daeley, Maddock; Robert Diffely Jr., Plaza; Darrell Ekberg, Manvel; Terry Gray, Cooperstown; Jay Grover, Cooperstown; Joseph Haas, Lidgerwood; David Hancock, Valley City; Vernon Laning, Bismarck; Eddy Larsen, Larimore; Gerald Lawson, Donnybrook; Anneus Meester, West Fargo; Gene Paupst, Larimore; Kenneth Retzlaff, Ellendale; John Roller, Chaseley; Thomas Rost, Devils Lake; Robert Sanden, Barney; Lynn Schlueter,



2007 Instructors of the Year, left to right, Richard Cheatley, Parshall, Roger Krueger, Bismarck, Mark Volk, Bismarck, and Gary Leslie, Minot.

Devils Lake; Stephan Stark, Grafton; Patricia Stockdill, Garrison; Charles Veith, Bismarck; Dale Veselka, Tower City; and Mark Vickerman, Minot.

10 years – William Bahm, Almont; Burns Bailey, Moffit; Lonnie Eichele, Harvey; Matthew Evans, Stanley; William Gauslow, Christine; Gary Hagness, Fordville; Shawn Hall, Munich; Doug Hanson, Dickinson; Arthur Hegstrom, Inkster; Daryl Heid, Center; Steve Heim, Anamoose; Curtis Horsley, Williston; Del Houghton, Steele; Shawn Jerome, Walhalla; Lloyd Johnson, New

Town; Kevin Kubat, Jamestown; Curt Latendresse, Minot; Kevin Marden, Powers Lake; Michael McDonald, Bismarck; Joel Nelson, Portland; Randall Palmer, Bismarck; Garis Pollert, Northwood; Joel Puffe, Bismarck; Jerry Rekow, Ellendale; Thomas Sage, New Town; Felicia Sargeant, Jamestown; Tim Stiles, Fairmount; Robert Thom, Glenburn; Melisa Toepke-Peterson, Fargo; Kurt Tompkins, Devils Lake; Beverly Turbiville, Dickinson; Brian Vose, Devils Lake; Timothy Wieben, Bismarck; and Leonard Wysocki Jr., Grafton.



Hunter education award recipients, standing left to right, Dave Just, 25 years, Beulah, Barry Townsend, 30 years, LaMoure, Tom Reiten, 30 years, Grand Forks, Wayne Evans, 25 years, Stanley, Mike Aamot, 25 years, Makoti, and Lorne Sterner, 35 years, Casselton. Seated left to right, Phil Degenstein, 30 years, Rugby, Lori Schweigert, 25 years, Beulah, Gene Howard, 30 years, Rugby, Larry Kaul, 30 years, LaMoure, and Mike Porter, 30 years, Bottineau.



GAME & FISH STAFF NOTES

McKenna, Leier Recognized by Wildlife Federation

Mike McKenna and Doug Leier were recognized in January by the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. McKenna was named Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, while Leier was tabbed Communicator of the Year.

McKenna is the Game and Fish Department's conservation and communications division chief. Leier is the Department's outreach biologist in West Fargo.



Mike McKenna



Doug Leier

Time to Think Boating Basics

With another North Dakota open water boating season fast approaching, now is a good time to look into taking the state's Boating Basics Course.

State law requires youngsters ages 12-15 who want to operate a boat or personal watercraft with at least a 10 horsepower motor to first pass the state's Boating Basics Course. In addition, major insurance companies give adult boat owners who pass the course a premium discount on boat insurance.

The course is available for home-study from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Bismarck office, or online at boaterexam.com.

Nancy Boldt, Department boat and water safety coordinator, said while the home-study course is free, students will be charged \$24 to take it online. "The online provider is charging for the course, and the money stays with them. It doesn't come to the Game and Fish Department," she said.

Students interested in taking the course online should choose the option "North Dakota." Upon completion of the test, and providing a credit card number, students will be able to print out a temporary certification card, and within 10 days a permanent card will be mailed.

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, write to Nancy Boldt, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095; email ndgf@nd.gov; or call 701-328-6300.



GREG GULLICKSON

Paddlefish Snagging Season

North Dakota's paddlefish snagging season opens May 1 and is scheduled to continue through the end of the month. However, depending on overall harvest, an early closure may occur with a 36-hour notice issued by the state Game and Fish Department.

Legal snagging hours are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. One tag per snagger will be issued. Snagging is legal in all areas of the Yellowstone River in North Dakota, and in the area of the Missouri River west of 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). The use or possession of a gaff within one-half mile in either direction of the ND Highway 200 bridge on the Yellowstone River is illegal at any time during the snagging season.

Mandatory harvest of all snagged paddlefish is required Wednesday through Sunday. On these days, all paddlefish caught must be tagged immediately.

Snag-and-release of all paddlefish will be required on Mondays and Tuesdays. Those participating during snag-and-release days need to have a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag in their possession.

If the season closes early, as it has the past four years, an extended snag-and-release-only period will be allowed for up to seven days immediately following the early closure, but not to extend beyond May 31. Only a limited area at the confluence will be open during this extended season. Again, snaggers will need to have a current season, unused paddlefish tag in their possession.

Use or possession of gaffs is prohibited on Mondays and Tuesdays, and during the snag-and-release extension period.

Cost of a paddlefish tag is \$3 for residents and \$7.50 for nonresidents.