

# BUFFALOBERRY PATCH



By Greg Freeman, Department News Editor

## Legislation on the Web

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will once again track hunting and fishing issues during the 2009 legislative session.

Interested outdoor enthusiasts can follow proposed outdoors-related bills on the Game and Fish Department's website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

During the 2007 session, 15 of 36 bills affecting the Department made it through the house and senate and were signed into law. Three resolutions also were adopted.

INFORMATION ON

**LEGISLATION**

on the web at  
[gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)



BRUCE KREFF

## Tentative 2009 Season Opening Dates

To help North Dakota hunters and anglers prepare for 2009, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department annually provides its best estimate for opening dates for the coming year.

Dates become official when approved by governor's proclamation. Tentative opening dates for 2009 include:

Spring Crow	March 14
Fishing (new license required)	April 1
Spring Turkey	April 11
Paddlefish Snagging	May 1
Fall Crow	August 15
Dove	September 1
Deer and Pronghorn Bow	September 4
Mountain Lion	September 4
Sharptail, Hun, Ruffed Grouse, Squirrel	September 12
Youth Deer	September 18
Youth Waterfowl, Sandhill Crane	September 19
Early Resident Waterfowl	September 26
Pronghorn Gun	October 2
Youth Pheasant, Regular Waterfowl	October 3
Pheasant, Fall Turkey	October 10
Deer Gun	November 6
Deer Muzzleloader	November 27
Darkhouse Spearfishing	December 1

## Anglers Can Drop a Line, Spearfish From Same Hole

Because the maximum size (12 inches in diameter) hole for ice fishing has been rescinded, anglers can now fish in the same hole in which they spear fish. However, possession of a spear is counted as a fishing rod.

In all cases, when a hole greater than 10 inches in diameter is left in the ice for any reason, the hole must be adequately marked with a natural object or painted wooden lath visible from a minimum of 150 feet.

Anglers should also take note of two regulations that have been clarified. It is illegal to discard any fish or fish parts on the ice, in the water, or on shore of any water body in North Dakota. It is also illegal to introduce any substance in state waters not attached or applied to a lure for the purpose of attracting fish.

As in the past, anglers are reminded that stocking live fish is illegal, except with an appropriate license or permit issued by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

## Enroll for Hunter Education Classes

Individuals interested in taking a hunter education class in 2009 should register online at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website.

Access the Game and Fish home page at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), click on the online services tab, and "online course enrollment" under the hunter education heading. Classes are listed by city, and can also be sorted by start date. To register for a class, click on "enroll" next to the specific class, and follow the simple instructions. Personal information is required.

The entire list of classes for 2009 is not yet available, and only those that are finalized are listed on the website. Classes will be added as they are finalized.

Those who do not have access to the Internet and want to sign up for a class can call the hunter education office in Bismarck at (701) 328-6615.

State law requires anyone born after December 31, 1961 to pass a certified hunter education course to hunt in the state. Hunter education is mandatory for youth who are turning 12 years old, and children can take the class at age 11.

## Be Cautious of Ice Conditions

Winter anglers and trappers need to study ice conditions before venturing on any of North Dakota's frozen waters. The Game and Fish Department offers this advice:

- Be aware on snow-covered ice as snow insulates ice, hampering solid ice formation. Snow also hides blemishes, such as cracked, weak and open water areas.
- Avoid cracks, pressure ridges, slushy or darker areas that signal thinner ice. The same goes for ice that forms around partially submerged trees, brush, embankments or other structures.
- Remember, ice thickness is not always consistent and can vary significantly within a few inches. Ice shouldn't be judge by appearance alone. Anglers should drill test holes as they make their way out on the lake, and an ice chisel should be used to check ice thickness while moving around.
- Daily temperature changes cause ice to expand and contract, affecting its strength.
- Visit with locals – other anglers and people at local bait shops – before going on an unfamiliar lake.
- The following minimums are recommended for travel on clear-blue lake ice formed under ideal conditions: 4 inches for a group walking single file; 6 inches for a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle; 8-12 inches for an automobile; and 12-15 inches for a pickup/truck.

These tips could help save a life:

- Wear a personal flotation device and carry a cell phone.
- Carry ice picks or a set of screwdrivers to pull yourself back on the ice if you fall through.
- If someone breaks through the ice, call 911 immediately. Rescue attempts should employ a long pole, board, rope, blanket or snowmobile suit. If that's not possible, throw the victim a life jacket, empty water jug or other buoyant object. Go to the victim as a last resort, but do this by forming a human chain where rescuers lie on the ice with each person holding the feet of the person in front. To treat hypothermia, replace wet clothing with dry clothing and immediately transport victim to a hospital.

## BOW Winter Workshops

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program has scheduled one-day winter workshops January 17 at Crooked Lake in McLean County, and February 20, 21 and 22 at Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau.

The Crooked Lake class is geared toward ice fishing and dark-house spearfishing. All equipment will be provided.

Lake Metigoshe offers a variety of classes. A class on dog sledding is available all three days with a limit of six participants per session (this class fills very fast). Snowshoeing and tracking, and winter ecology and cross-country skiing are available February 21 and 22, with each class limited to 12-15 students.

Women interested in the workshops should register immediately due to limited space available. The cost is \$60 for dog sledding and \$50 for the other classes. Sign up for two classes and the fee is \$90. Preregistration with payment is required. Equipment and snacks will be provided.

Information and registration forms can be obtained by contacting Nancy Boldt, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095; (701) 328-6312; or email [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov).

Registration forms are also available on the Game and Fish website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), by accessing the education/outreach tab.



## Salmon Spawning Efforts Complete

Fisheries crews conducted their annual salmon spawning operation at Lake Sakakawea last fall, and with the help of a neighboring state, reached their goal of collecting 600,000 eggs.

Nearly 400,000 eggs were collected from Sakakawea and the Garrison Dam Tailrace. Average size of Lake Sakakawea females was about 6 pounds, which was similar to last year. The Missouri River salmon were slightly smaller than last year.

Dave Fryda, Missouri River System supervisor for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, said South Dakota had an exceptional run this year, enabling North Dakota fisheries crews to travel to South Dakota's Whitlock station to collect another 200,000 eggs.

"The importance of cooperating with neighboring states in the Missouri River salmon program was again evident this year, with South Dakota helping us and Montana meet egg goals and exceed next year's needs," he said. "In the past we have provided surplus eggs to both states when their runs were not sufficient."

Current plans are to stock about 65,000 salmon – split between spring and fall stocking – in Lake Sakakawea and 50,000 spring-stocked fish in the Missouri River.

Chinook salmon begin their spawning run in October. Since salmon cannot naturally reproduce in North Dakota, state Game and Fish Department and Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery personnel collect eggs and transport them to the hatchery.

Once the eggs hatch, young salmon spend several months in the hatchery before stocking in the Missouri River System.

## Nonresident Any-Deer Bow Licenses

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will have 1,290 any-deer bow licenses available to nonresidents in 2009.

The number of nonresident any-deer bow licenses available is 15 percent of the previous year's mule deer gun license allocation. The Game and Fish Department issued 8,600 mule deer licenses in the 2008 deer gun lottery.

The Department will begin issuing any-deer bow licenses March 1. All applications received on or before March 1, 2009, will be treated equally. If more applications are received than there are licenses, Game and Fish will hold a drawing to issue the licenses.

If licenses remain after March 1, these will be issued daily on a first-come, first-served basis.

## 2009 NASP State Tournament

The state Game and Fish Department invites all North Dakota schools participating in the National Archery in the Schools Program to register for the first state tournament.

Jeff Long, NASP coordinator for the Department, said the 2009 tournament will

be held in February in local schools. "We are holding a virtual tournament, meaning you don't have to travel to participate as it's held at your school or one nearby," Long said. Schools can choose the specific date and tournaments are conducted by local coaches or physical education teachers.

Schools can enter teams in the following grade level divisions: elementary (4-6), middle (7-8), and high school (9-12). Teams must have between 16-24 members, with at least five from the opposite gender. Archers may participate up one grade division.

Small schools of 100 students or fewer (all grades combined) may assemble teams from schools in the same town, county or district. Schools that cannot form a team may register students for individual competition.

All-star teams and teams from multiple schools (with the exception of the small school rule) are not permitted.

Recognition will be given to the top placing team in each division, top five males and females in each division, and the top scoring male and female regardless of division. Top scoring individuals and teams win an automatic national tournament bid. Additionally, teams that achieve minimum scores set by NASP also win a national tournament bid. The national tournament takes place May 8-9 in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Holding an archery tournament is a great way for students to put their archery skills to the test, and it allows them to be part of a competition just like athletes in other school sports," Long said. "Studies have shown that kids have a much higher chance of turning archery into a lifelong pursuit if they are given multiple opportunities to participate, especially outside of their physical education class."

For more information, schools should visit the NASP website at [nasparchery.com](http://nasparchery.com); or contact Long by e-mail at [jrlong@nd.gov](mailto:jrlong@nd.gov), or call (701) 328-6322.



CRAIG BIHRLE

## GAME & FISH STAFF



### Bihrlle Named Game and Fish Employee of the Year

Craig Bihrlle, communications supervisor for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, received the Director's Award for 2008 during the Department's annual meeting.

Terry Steinwand, director, said Bihrlle has almost single-handedly molded the communications section into the voice of the Department. "He has overseen the transition from a mission onto itself to a tool and service that the entire Department seeks out and uses," Steinwand said. "He has developed a communications plan that has been used for several years for both internal and external communications."

Bihrlle was also recognized for his work with the *North Dakota OUTDOORS* magazine and webcast, and other Department printed materials including hunting and fishing guides and newspaper columns.

"His understanding of the media and attention to detail are great assets for the Department," Steinwand continued. "He ensures all communications are focused on priorities and are timely."



Director Terry Steinwand and Craig Bihrlle

MIKE ANDERSON

### Myhre Named Wildlife Officer of the Year

James Myhre, North Dakota Game and Fish Department district game warden stationed in Dawson, is the state's 2008 Wildlife Officer of the Year. Myhre was honored recently by the Shikar-Safari Club International, a private conservation organization that annually recognizes outstanding wildlife officers in each state.

In a nomination letter sent to Shikar-Safari, chief warden Robert Timian said Myhre is a vital part of the Department's law enforcement efforts, is a skilled investigator, dedicated to his work and puts in long hours in the field. "His work ethic, combined with an uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time, has resulted in many quality apprehensions of game and fish violations," Timian said.

Myhre was mentioned for solving numerous wildlife crimes due to diligent follow-up of reported violations, and also for assisting in major investigations throughout North Dakota and surrounding states. His expertise includes X-ray examination and subsequent bullet recovery.

"Warden Myhre has developed a network of communication with other agencies, and is highly regarded in the law enforcement community," Timian said.

**NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS**  
*On Television*

<b>WILLISTON</b> KJMM - Tuesday - 10 pm KJMD - Monday - noon	<b>MINOT</b> KMOT - Tuesday - 10 pm KXMC - Monday - noon	<b>GRAND FORKS</b> WDAZ - Wednesday - 5 pm
<b>DICKINSON</b> KJCC - Tuesday - 9 pm (MT) KJDA - Sunday - 9 pm (MT)	<b>SISIBARCK</b> KFYR - Tuesday - 10 pm KJMS - Sunday - 10 pm CATV - Saturday - 9:30 am	<b>FARGO</b> KFYR - Sunday - 9 pm



*Bruce Stillings*



*Brian Hosek*



*Dale Repnow*

## Game and Fish Recognizes Employee Efforts

North Dakota Game and Fish Department Director Terry Steinwand recently honored a number of employees with performance-based awards. Steinwand presented the following awards at the Department's annual staff meeting in December.

- Bruce Stillings, Dickinson, received the Special Projects award, given to an individual or group who either successfully completed a project of short duration, or implemented a successful new project. Stillings was recognized for designing, implementing and using data from the pronghorn radio telemetry project. "This will serve as a template for all future research/management projects," Steinwand said. "The project had exact management objectives, a set timeline and a plan for using the results. The project will benefit the management of pronghorn in North Dakota for decades."
- Brian Hosek, Bismarck, was presented with the Innovations award, which recognizes staff for implementing a process to improve Department goals and objectives. Hosek was recognized for his efforts with geographic information systems technology. "Brian has brought this type of knowledge to our Department that is successful beyond expectations," Steinwand said. "For this, we are considered one of the leaders in GIS technology in state government."
- Dale Repnow, Bismarck, received the Solid Foundation award, presented to an employee or group who demonstrate exemplary work in the administrative, technical or support field. According to Steinwand, Repnow demonstrates a positive attitude, a willingness to work, and superior technical skills. "Dale seeks out opportunities to assist a wide range of Department staff in answering a variety of public information calls and questions, including walk-in and e-mail inquiries. He is a tremendous asset to our Department," Steinwand said.
- Chris Knutson, district game warden, Devils Lake, received the 2008 National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Officer of the Year award for North Dakota. Each state in NASBLA selects a person for a national award. Among the criteria for receiving the award is boating activity in regard to law enforcement, education, search and rescue, outreach and training. Knutson is responsible for boat safety enforcement activities on more than 100,000 acres of Devils Lake, North Dakota's largest natural lake. Nancy Boldt, boat and water safety coordinator said, "Officer Knutson's district is a four-season tourist destination that includes a world-class fishery. His knowledge of Devils Lake has proven to be a valuable asset not only in his boating, hunting and fishing law enforcement efforts, but also in search and rescue events."