

# BUFFALOBERRY PATCH



By Greg Freeman, Department News Editor



FRED RYCKMAN

*Not all anglers need a license to fish in North Dakota, just those 16 years and older. No matter your age, everyone fishes for free June 6-7 during North Dakota's Free Fishing Days.*

## New Licenses Required

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. Licenses for 2009-10 are effective April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.

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

## Fisheries Meetings Recorded on Game and Fish Website

In mid-March the Game and Fish Department held four fisheries meetings around the state, primarily to present information and discuss management philosophy on the major fishing waters – Lake Sakakawea, the Missouri River, Lake Oahe and Devils Lake.

While the meetings attracted many interested anglers, fisheries biologists realize that a great majority of the state's anglers couldn't make it. So, the Game and Fish video crew taped three of the meetings, and edited versions are now available for everyone to view on the Department website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

"We set up the meetings as a way to share information about our largest fishing waters," said Scott Gangl, fisheries management section supervisor. "Putting them on the web gives a lot more people a chance to learn some more about their favorite fishing waters."





CRAIG BHRLE

*Sharp-tailed grouse on their dancing grounds in spring are one of the grandest displays in North Dakota's outdoors.*

## Dancing in Spring

North Dakotans won't be the only ones dancing this spring in celebration of the end of a long winter.

For a front row view of the spring courtship rituals of sharp-tailed grouse on their dancing grounds, six national wildlife refuges and a state wildlife management offer observation blinds for public use.

Grouse blinds typically receive considerable interest and are available by reservation only. Those 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 blind reservations:

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

## Paddlefish Snagging Reminder

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

If the season closes early, which has been the case the last five years, an extended snag-and-release-only period will be allowed for up to seven days following the early closure, but not to extend beyond May 31.

See the 2008-10 North Dakota Fishing Guide for more details.



## Snow Goose Researcher to Give Presentations in Grand Forks, Bismarck

One of the leading experts on North America's snow geese will share some of his research findings at three public presentations in North Dakota in mid-April.

Dr. Robert Rockwell, a biology professor at The City University of New York, has also directed snow goose research at La Perouse Bay, a snow goose nesting colony along the southwestern part of Hudson Bay, since 1982. Snow geese that nest at La Perouse Bay are part of the Mid-Continent population that migrates through North Dakota each fall and spring.

"This is a great opportunity for waterfowl hunters, birders and anyone else to get a better understanding of what is going on with the snow geese and their habitats," said Mike Johnson, North Dakota Game and Fish Department game management section leader. "For years, we've been telling our hunters about the overabundance of snow geese and the problems they are causing. Dr. Rockwell will provide visual and personal insight from someone who has spent every nesting season for nearly 40 years documenting the changes on and around the snow goose nesting colony."

At evening presentations in Grand Forks April 15, and Bismarck April 16, Dr. Rockwell will review the current snow goose population status, the consequences of too many geese and their damage to the tundra, and also how efforts to control or reduce the Mid-Continent population are working.

In addition, at the annual Glen Allen Paur Memorial Lecture at the University of North Dakota, also on April 15, Dr. Rockwell will share his fascinating research related to increasing overlap of polar bears on the La Perouse nesting colony, due to earlier spring break-up, and how that might affect both the snow goose colony and polar bears.

This event is sponsored by the UND Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society and is open to the public. It is scheduled for noon at Starcher Hall (biology building), Room 141.

The April 15 evening presentation in Grand Forks, 7 p.m., is also on the UND campus at Leonard Hall (geology building) in the lecture bowl, Room 100.

The April 16 public presentation in Bismarck, 7 p.m., is at the Ducks Unlimited regional headquarters office, at the intersection of River Road and Burnt Boat Drive.



*Dr. Robert Rockwell, right, will share his snow goose nesting colony research at presentations in Grand Forks April 15, and Bismarck April 16.*

## Boating Basics Time

March and April are traditionally the months when many outdoor enthusiasts begin to ready equipment and make plans for another boating season in North Dakota. With that in mind, 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. Two providers also offer the course online, and links to those sites can be found by accessing the Department's website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

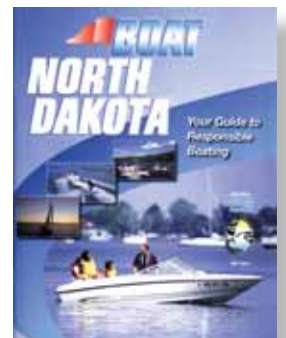
While the home-study course is free, students will be charged a fee to take it online. The online provider charges

for the course, not the Game and Fish Department, and the money stays with them.

Upon completion of the online 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 on Boating Basics contact Nancy Boldt, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, by e-mail at [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov); or call (701) 328-6300.





*Terry Steinwand, North Dakota Game and Fish Department director, right, with Ron Klein, Stanley, 35-year hunter education award recipient. Not pictured, Lyle Rose, East Grand Forks, Minnesota.*



*Terry Steinwand, North Dakota Game and Fish Department director, standing far right, with 30-year hunter education award recipients, sitting left to right: Rodney Berg, Nortonville; Chris Hansen, Napoleon; Mike Voglewede, Northwood; Dick Cheatley, Parshall; Standing left to right: Noel Podoll, Velva; Karl Broeren, Northwood; Ronald Koenig, Elgin; Colin Hoffart, Harvey; and Myron Schell, Underwood. Not pictured, James Balsdon, Osnabrock; Melvin Bruhn, Elgin; John Buresh, Towner; Marlowe Grindler, Rogers; Orville Hoger, New Salem; and Ronald Hunsberger, Larimore.*



*Terry Steinwand, North Dakota Game and Fish Department director, far left, with 25-year hunter education award recipients, left to right: Mark Montgomery, Center; Rick Suckut, Bowdon; David Rensch, Garrison; Clyde Grosz, Hazen; Donald Meyer, Devils Lake; Dale Brewster, Stanley; and Donald Brewster, Bowbells.*

## Hunter Education Volunteers Recognized

Volunteer instructors for North Dakota's hunter education program were recognized in January for teaching students the importance of hunter safety and ethics.

Volunteers recognized for a decade or more of service were:

**35 years** – Ronald Klein, Stanley; Lyle Rose, East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

**30 years** – James Balsdon, Osnabrock; Rodney Berg, Nortonville; Karl Broeren, Northwood; Melvin Bruhn, Elgin; John Buresh, Towner; Dick Cheatley, Parshall; Marlowe Grindler, Rogers; Chris Hansen, Napoleon; Colin Hoffart, Harvey; Orville Hoger, New Salem; Ronald Hunsberger, Larimore; Ronald Koenig, Elgin; Noel Podoll, Velva; Myron Schell, Underwood; Mike Voglewede, Northwood.

**25 years** – Dale Brewster, Stanley; Donald Brewster, Bowbells; Clyde Grosz, Hazen; Donald Meyer, Devils Lake; Mark Montgomery, Center; David Rensch, Garrison; Rick Suckut, Bowdon.

**20 years** – Norman Amundson, Harvey; Rene Arnold, Cavalier; Orrin Berg, Max; James Boley, Minot; Richard Brewster, Washburn; Douglas Crosby, Williston; Ralph Danuser, Marion; Keith Domke, Jamestown; Todd Foss, Fargo; James Halden, Parshall; Myron Hanson, Souris; Richard Jorgenson, Devils Lake; Michael McEnroe, Bismarck; Todd Parkman, Hope; Kenneth Schwandt, Cavalier; Rodney Stark, Kennedy; Ronald Trulson, Parshall.

**15 years** – Lynn Baier, Fordville; Kevin Bishop, Kathryn; Glenn Brustad, Hillsboro; Terry Buechler, Dickinson; Wade Carter, Glen Ullin; Patsy Croke, Mandan; Darwin Gebhardt, Oakes; Sidney Gross, Ashley; Garry Hillier, Thompson; Francis Miller, Mandan; Gregory Odden, Rugby; Rick Olson, Underwood; Rodney Parrill, Bottineau; Duane Reinisch, Valley City; Allen Schirado, Bismarck; John Schlieman, Grand Forks; Gene Van Eeckhout, Jamestown.

**10 years** – Adnan Aldayel, New Rockford; Paul Anderson, Hillsboro; Leland Bratlie, Drayton; Jack Carlson, Mandan; Randy Christensen, Hettinger; Paul Drechsel, Grand Forks; Mark Engen, Anamoose; Mark Entzi, Watford City; Vincent Grant, Sr., Belcourt; Gary Grosz, Kulm; Gerry Henriksen, Hazen; Matthew Herman, Ashley; Leon Hiltner, Wales; Michael Hinrichs, Bismarck; Morris Hummel, Washburn; Brent Jacobson, Garrison; Steven Kilwein, Hettinger; Marvin Knell, Jamestown; Jeffrey Lemer, Anamoose; Barry McCleary, Napoleon; Curtis Miller, Tioga; Marvin Neumiller, Washburn; Loran Palmer, West Fargo; Mark Pfeifer, Lidgerwood; Craig Roe, Kindred; Mike Schreiner, West Fargo; Paul Sperial, Fargo; Clayton Thompson, West Fargo; Gerald Walsh, Fargo.

# WEEKLY WEBCAST EXPANDS



*North Dakota Outdoors Online*, a Game and Fish Department weekly video news broadcast once available only on the Internet, is now available to a larger audience.

Tom Jensen, Department video news director, says the weekly webcast is now also scheduled on eight community access channels around the state.

The webcast focuses on current news and issues that appeal to people who hunt, fish, trap and enjoy North Dakota's outdoors. The program is hosted and produced by Jensen and Mike Anderson, the Game and Fish Department's video team.

Outdoors Online is posted on the Game and Fish Department's website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), each Thursday. The program can also be seen at Scheels All Sports stores in Bismarck, Minot and Grand Forks.

## **WEBCAST BROADCAST SCHEDULE**

### **Grand Forks**

- GFTV Channel 2 – Saturday, 10 p.m.
- UND Studio One Channel 3 – Monday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

### **Dickinson**

- Consolidated Channel 18 – Monday, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

### **Fargo**

- TV Fargo Channel 99 – Thursday, noon, and Sunday, 7 p.m.

### **Bismarck**

- Community Access Cable Channel 12, Thursday, 9:30 p.m.

### **Jamestown**

- Cable Services, The Replay Channel, CSi Channel 10

### **Steele**

- BEK Sports Channel 8, Tuesday and Thursday, 6:20 p.m.

### **Minot**

- Cable Channel 19, time to be determined.

**Always on the Internet at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)**



## Conservation Education Volunteers Recognized

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

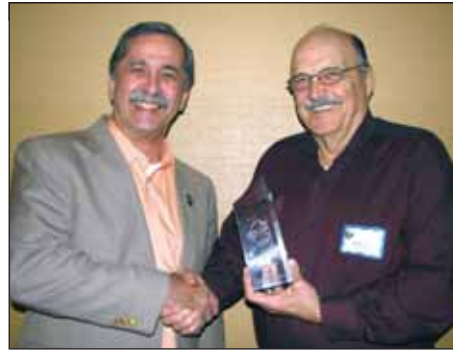
Lynn Kieper, Bismarck, a Department volunteer and active fishing instructor since 1992, received the Fishing Instructor of the Year award for 2008. Kieper was recognized for his work with kids at numerous fishing camps and events, including Family Fishing Days and the North Dakota State Fair. He's also a board member for Lure 'Em For Life, a nonprofit fishing organization made up of volunteers whose mission is to teach people of all ages about fishing through fish camps and other events.

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

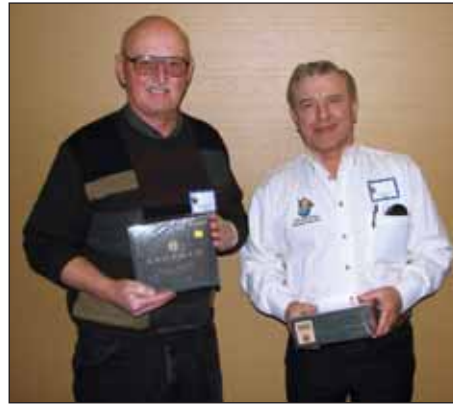
**20 years** – Walter Darr, Williston; Larry Nagel, Shields.

**15 years** – Beth Darr, Williston; Nanci Fennern, Bismarck; Tim Larson, Turtle Lake; Janelle Montgomery, Center; Gerald Norberg, Minot; Allen Rusch, Fargo.

**10 years** – Stanley Cox, Jamestown; Richard Peterson, Bismarck; Michelle Pich, Menoken; Duane Reinisch, Valley City; Douglas Thingstad, Jamestown; Cindie Van Tassel, Breckenridge, Minnesota.

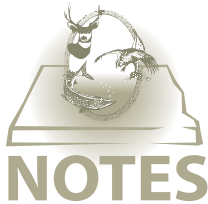


*Terry Steinwand, North Dakota Game and Fish Department director, with Lynn Kieper, Bismarck, Hooked on Fishing Instructor of the Year.*



*Walter Darr, Williston, left, and Larry Nagel, Shields, both 20-year conservation education award recipients.*

## GAME & FISH STAFF



*Pat Lothspeich*

## Lothspeich Transfers to Bismarck

Longtime district game warden Pat Lothspeich has transferred to Bismarck to fill the outreach biologist position that covers southwestern North Dakota. He had been a district game warden in Belfield since 1983.



*Mike Johnson*

## Johnson, Schwan Recognized by Wildlife Society

Mike Johnson and Brent Schwan were recognized in February by the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Johnson received the Chapter's Professional award, while Schwan received the Case of the Year award.

Johnson is the Game and Fish Department's game management section leader. Schwan is a district game warden stationed in Watford City.