

## **NDG&F February 12th Newsletter**

### **NASP Tourney Returns to Minot**

North Dakota's National Archery in the Schools Program state tournament is March 18-19 at the North Dakota State Fair Center in Minot.

In 2015, the tournament featured a record 530-plus student archers. Jeff Long, NASP state coordinator for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, said the event continues to grow and he expects last year's attendance tally to be easily eclipsed.

"More and more schools are being added to the NASP program every year," Long said. "As more kids come to the event in Minot and see the excellent venue, experience the excitement and get a taste for how much fun it is, it's easy to see why this is growing."

Winning state tournament teams and the top 10 individual winners qualify for the national tournament in Louisville, Kentucky. Of the many North Dakota student archers who competed in Kentucky in 2015, Spencer Brockman of North Sargent High School had the highest (fifth-place) finish. Brockman, a senior, will be in Minot in March to defend his state title.

Long said only schools offering NASP lessons during school hours as part of their standard curriculum are eligible to participate in the state tournament. Schools that don't meet this requirement are encouraged to contact Long to get the program started.

The list of North Dakota schools involved in NASP can be found on the Game and Fish Department's website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

Schools enter teams and individuals in the following grade level divisions: elementary (4-5), middle (6-8), and high school (9-12). Teams must have 12-24 members, with a minimum of four from each gender. If smaller schools wish to form a team, archers may participate up one grade division for team competition, but they would compete individually in their appropriate age category.

Recognition is given to the top placing team in each division, the top five males and females in each division, and the top scoring male and female regardless of division. For the first time, Long said college scholarships will be awarded to some of the top finishers at the state event. Scholarships are provided through money raised by the North Dakota Youth Archery Advisory Council, with matching funds from NASP.

For more information regarding the tournament, schools should contact Long by email at [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov), or call 701-328-6615. To learn more, visit the Game and Fish website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

### **Midwinter Waterfowl Survey**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's annual midwinter waterfowl survey in early January indicated a record 222,890 Canada geese in the state.

Andy Dinges, migratory game bird biologist, said an estimated 109,820 Canada geese were observed on the Missouri River, and another 25,370 were scattered on Nelson Lake in Oliver County. Lake Sakakawea, which is typically iced-over in early January but had substantial open water during this year's survey, had 87,395 geese on the lake itself. Dinges said after summarizing the numbers, an additional 15,440 mallards were tallied statewide.

"Little snow accumulation occurred up to the survey date and the availability of food should have been good," Dinges said. "Overall, wintering conditions were excellent."

The first large waves of migrating waterfowl, according to Dinges, occurred during the first two weeks in November. Cold conditions during the third week of November pushed many waterfowl through the state.

"After that short cold spell, moderate temperatures, with little snow accumulation, allowed birds to remain in the state on the Missouri River System up until the survey date, and on a few larger wetlands in the northwest and south central portions of the state until mid-December," he said.