

## **NDG&F May 9th Newsletter**

### **Wolverine Shot in McKenzie County**

A rancher south of Alexander in McKenzie County shot and killed a wolverine in late April that was harassing livestock. The incident was investigated and determined to be within North Dakota law, which allows a landowner, tenant or that persons agent to catch, or kill any wild furbearing animal (except bears) in protection of poultry, domestic animals or crops.

The 8- to 9-year old male appeared to be healthy, and was found with a radio tracking device in its abdomen. Records indicated the device was inserted in 2008, when the wolverine was captured south of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. Internal radio tracking devices are often used in mammals that frequently crawl in and out of burrows, or those that live in water.

This wolverine's last known location was Colorado in 2012. After which, the battery in its radio tracking device was likely depleted.

The last confirmed record of a wolverine in North Dakota was from the fur trading era during the mid-1800s. The closest population of wolverines occurs in the mountains of Montana, and the forests of northern Canada. However, male wolverines are known to travel great distances in search of habitat, food and/or other wolverines.

A full body mount will be displayed in the furbearer exhibit at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in Bismarck.

### **Boat North Dakota Course**

Boat owners are reminded that children ages 12-15 who want to operate a boat or personal watercraft alone this summer must first take the state's [boating basics course](#).

State law requires youngsters ages 12-15 to pass the course before they operate a boat or personal watercraft with at least a 10 horsepower motor. In addition, some insurance companies give adult boat owners who pass the course a discount on boat insurance.

The course is available for home-study from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Bismarck office. Two commercial providers also offer the course online, and links to those sites are found on the department's website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

While the home-study course is free, students are charged a fee to take it online. The online provider charges for the course, not the Game and Fish Department. The fee stays with the online provider.

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 contact Brian Schaffer, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, by email at [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov); or call 701-328-6300.

### **First Fish Certificate**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is reminding parents to capture their little angler's first catch on a specially designed [First Fish certificate](#).

First Fish has no qualifying weights or measurements. The only requirement is the successful landing of a North Dakota fish. Certificates are available to all who request them, and have ample room for all the important information, such as name, age, lake and a short fish story, plus a blank space for a photograph big enough to contain the smile of the happiest little angler.

Free certificates are available by contacting the Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300, or send an email to [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov).

### **Archery Field Day Offered in Bismarck**

An archery education field day is scheduled Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Nishu Bowmen Archery Complex in Bismarck.

An archery training voucher that is obtained online is required to participate in the field day. Successful completion of the online course and outdoor field day qualifies archers for a North Dakota bow hunter education certificate.

This bowhunter education class is a certified class that is recognized and honored in other states and Canadian provinces. It is not required for archery hunting in North Dakota, except at the USDA Research Station by Mandan, and other special archery hunting areas in the state.

[To register for the field day](#), visit the "buy and apply" link at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). The course number is 2728.

[More information on archery certification](#), including how to acquire the training voucher, is available by visiting the department's education link.