

## NDG&F May 16th Newsletter

### Deer Gun Application Deadline is June 1

North Dakota deer hunters are reminded the deadline for submitting applications for the 2016 gun season is June 1. Hunters are encouraged to [apply online](#) at the State Game and Fish Department website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

The deadline applies to muzzleloader, regular gun, gratis and nonresident landowner, and youth antlered mule deer applications (specifically for antlered mule deer in units 3B1, 3B2, and 4A-4F).

New this year is the option for unsuccessful applicants to donate their refund to the department's Private Land Open To Sportsmen program. The North Dakota State Legislature created this option in 2015 with nearly unanimous support. Donations are not tax deductible.

Proceeds from donations to PLOTS will focus on deer habitat and hunting access to deer habitat.

State law requires residents age 18 or older to prove residency on the application by submitting a valid North Dakota driver's license number or a North Dakota nondriver photo identification number. Applications cannot be processed without this information.

Gratis applications received on or before the regular deer gun lottery application deadline (June 1) will be issued an any-legal-deer license. As per state law, applications received after the deadline will be issued based on licenses remaining after the lottery – generally only antlerless licenses remain.

The application deadline for regular statewide youth deer licenses is Sept. 1.

### Summer Volunteer Opportunities

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has many [opportunities for volunteers](#) to help with education efforts this summer.

Anyone interested in helping Game and Fish's conservation education efforts, and volunteering time to sustain the state's outdoor heritage, can call Game and Fish at 701-328-6615.

Volunteer fishing camp instructors must become an official Game and Fish Department volunteer, become a Lure 'Em For Life member (\$10 annually) and pass a background check. Contact Jeff Long, department education coordinator, at 701-328-6322 to begin this process.

Some other volunteer opportunities coming this summer include:

- National Guard Fish Camp, June 5-8, at Camp of the Cross, Garrison. The camp is conducted as a partnership between Lure 'Em For Life, North Dakota Game and Fish, and the North Dakota National Guard and is open to kids ages 9-14 whose parent or parents are active North Dakota National Guard members. Volunteers are needed to teach classes such as knot tying, fish identification and shore-fishing. Volunteers with boats are also needed to take kids on the water.

- Camp of the Cross Ministries Fish Camp, June 20-23, at Camp of the Cross, Garrison. The camp is organized and run by CCM, but volunteers are needed to help with fishing. This three-day camp was developed by CCM as a "specialty camp," focusing on one of three areas, including fishing.
- Summer Fish Camp, Aug. 7-12, at Lakewood Bible Camp, Devils Lake. Similar to the June camp in Garrison, but this four-day camp is open to anyone ages 8-14.
- North Dakota State Fair, July 22-30, Minot. The Game and Fish Department operates an outdoor skills area during the State Fair where kids of all ages have an opportunity to fish, and shoot pellet guns and bows. There is also a furbearer and many other educational displays. The Outdoors Skills Park is open 1-7 p.m. daily and is operated by volunteers and Game and Fish staff. Lodging and per diem are provided to volunteers working two or more consecutive days.
- Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site, Bismarck. Family fishing days are Saturdays and Wednesdays from June through the end of August, located adjacent to the department's Bismarck office, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to answer questions and check out equipment.

### **Threat of Exotics in State Waters Continues**

Outdoor water recreationists are once again reminded to help prevent the introduction and spread of [aquatic nuisance species](#) in North Dakota.

Current regulations require:

- All aquatic vegetation must be removed from boats, personal watercraft, trailers and fishing equipment such as fishing poles, bait buckets, lures and waders before leaving a body of water. That means "vegetation free" when transporting watercraft and/or equipment away from a boat ramp, landing area or shoreline. Time out of the water needed to remove aquatic vegetation at the immediate water access area is allowed.
- All water must be drained from boats and other watercraft, including bilges, livewells, baitwells and motors before leaving a water body.
- All drain plugs that may hold back water must be removed, and water draining devices must be open, on all watercraft and recreational, commercial and construction equipment bilges and confined spaces, during any out-of-water transport of same.
- Transportation of fish in or on ice is allowed.
- Live aquatic bait or aquatic vegetation may not be transported into North Dakota.
- All legal live aquatic organisms used by anglers, including legal baitfish (fathead minnows), amphibians (salamanders and frogs), invertebrates (crayfish and leeches) and insects must be purchased and/or trapped in North Dakota.
- Anglers may not transport live bait in water away from the Red River (Class I ANS infested waters). All water must be drained from bait buckets as anglers leave the shore, or remove their boat from the water. Anglers must properly dispose of unused bait away from the river, as dumping bait in the water or on shore is illegal.

- In all other waters not infested with Class I ANS species, anglers can transport live bait in water in containers of five gallons or less in volume.