

## **NDG&F March 26th Newsletter**

### **Game and Fish Advisory Board Meetings Announced**

Outdoor enthusiasts are invited to attend a North Dakota Game and Fish Department advisory board meeting in their area.

These public meetings, held each spring and fall, provide citizens with an opportunity to discuss fish and wildlife issues and ask questions of their district advisors and agency personnel. One of the main agenda items for this round of advisory meetings is North Dakota deer management and possible deer gun license numbers for fall 2012.

The governor appoints eight Game and Fish Department advisors, each representing a multi-county section of the state, to serve as a liaison between the department and public.

Any person who requires an auxiliary aid or service must notify the contact person at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting date.

**District 3** – Counties: Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette and Towner

Date: April 9 – 7 p.m.

Location: Community Center, Leeds

Host: Leeds/York Wildlife Club

Contact: Rick Darling, 466-2436

Advisory board member: Tracy Gardner, Devils Lake, 662-5639

**District 4** – Counties: Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina and Walsh

Date: April 10 – 7 p.m.

Location: Community Center, Minto

Host: Minto Sportsman's Klub

Contact: Chris Misialek, 248-3978

Advisory board member: Ronald Houdek, Tolna, 262-4724

**District 8** – Counties: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope and Stark

Date: April 10 – 7 p.m.

Location: High School, Beach

Host: Pheasants Forever

Contact: Misty Farnstrom, 872-4349

Advisory board member: Wayne Gerbig, Amidon, 879-6353

**District 5** – Counties: Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele and Traill

Date: April 11 – 7 p.m.

Location: American Legion Hall, Finley

Host: Finley Wildlife Club

Contact: Brian Tuite, 789-0930

Advisory board member: Loran Palmer, West Fargo, 282-8479

**District 1** – Counties: Divide, McKenzie and Williams

Date: April 11 – 7 p.m.

Location: Montana-Dakota Utilities, Williston

Host: Upper Missouri United Sportsmen

Contact: Wayne Aberle, 770-6902

Advisory board member: Jason Leiseth, Arnegard, 586-3714

**District 6** – Counties: Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, Logan, LaMoure, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells

Date: April 12 – 7 p.m.

Location: Community Center, Litchville

Host: Litchville Wildlife Club

Contact: Joey Botner, 840-2286

Advisory board member: Joel Christoferson, Litchville, 973-4981

**District 7** – Counties: Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux

Date: April 12 – 7 p.m.

Location: City Hall, New Salem

Host: New Salem Wildlife Club

Contact: Gordonna Toepke, 843-7681

Advisory board member: Frank Kartch, Bismarck, 751-3414

**District 2** – Counties: Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville and Ward

Date: April 16 – 7 p.m.

Location: The Club (807 Highway 5 East), Mohall

Host: Mouse River Loop Pheasants

Contact: Brad Moberg, 263-7188

Advisory board member: Robert Gjellstad, Voltaire, 338-2281

### **Whooping Cranes Migrating Through North Dakota**

Whooping cranes are in the midst of their spring migration and sightings will increase as they make their way through North Dakota over the next several weeks. Anyone seeing these birds as they move through the state is asked to report sightings so the birds can be tracked.

Whoopers stand about five feet tall and have a wingspan of about seven feet from tip to tip. They are bright white with black wing tips, which are visible only when the wings are outspread. In flight they extend their long necks straight forward, while their long, slender legs extend out behind the tail.

Whooping cranes typically migrate singly, or in groups of 2-3 birds, and may be associated with sandhill cranes.

Other white birds such as snow geese, swans and egrets are often mistaken for whooping cranes. The

most common misidentification is pelicans, because their wingspan is similar and they tuck their pouch in flight, leaving a silhouette similar to a crane when viewed from below.

Anyone sighting whoopers should not disturb them, but record the date, time, location, and the birds' activity. Observers should also look closely for and report colored bands which may occur on one or both legs. Whooping cranes have been marked with colored leg bands to help determine their identity. Whooping crane sightings should be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (701) 387-4397, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's main office in Bismarck at (701) 328-6300, or to local game wardens around the state. Reports help biologists locate important whooping crane habitat areas, monitor marked birds, determine survival and population numbers, and identify times and migration routes.

### **BOW Firearms Class Scheduled in Riverdale**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program is sponsoring a free firearms safety, handling and self-awareness class for women May 5 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Game and Fish district office in Riverdale.

Participants will learn how to handle firearms, practice safety in the home, self-awareness tips and concealed weapons laws. Participants can take the concealed weapons permit test after completing the workshop.

Women interested in attending the workshop should [register online](#), or [download a registration form](#), at the Game and Fish Department website [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

For more information, contact Brittany Fish or Nancy Boldt at (701) 328-6312; or email [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov).

### **Hunting Guide and Outfitter Test Set for May 12**

The next guide and outfitter written examination is May 12 at 1 p.m. at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department office in Bismarck. The test is given periodically to anyone interested in becoming a hunting guide or outfitter in the state.

In addition to passing a written exam, qualifications for becoming a guide include a background check for criminal and game and fish violations; certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and standard first aid; and employment by or contract with a licensed hunting outfitter.

Hunting outfitter eligibility requirements include the guide qualifications, as well as an individual must have held a hunting guide license for two years; and must have proof of liability insurance.

Interested individuals are required to preregister by calling the Game and Fish Department's enforcement office at 328-6604.

### **Bighorn Sheep Auction License Sells for \$42,000**

North Dakota's 2012 bighorn sheep auction license sold for \$42,000 at the March 17 Midwest Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation annual meeting in Bloomington, Minn.

North Dakota's auction license allows the winning bidder the rare privilege of pursuing a North Dakota bighorn on a self-guided hunt.

One hundred percent of the auction license proceeds, plus an additional \$10,000 donated by MCWSF,

are used to enhance bighorn sheep management in North Dakota.

In addition, a 5 percent conservation fee for all auction licenses generated an additional \$2,100 from the sale of North Dakota's license for wild sheep conservation.