

NDF&G December 21st Newsletter

Kading Named Game and Fish Employee of the Year

Kevin Kading, private land section leader for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, received the Director's Award for 2009 during the department's annual meeting Dec. 10 in Bismarck.

Terry Steinwand, Game and Fish director, said Kading's leadership is a major reason why the private land program has become a model for other states. "His creativeness and never-ending quest for improvement is the main reason why our private land program is so successful," Steinwand said. "His sense of integrity and dedication to the job has gained the respect of everyone."

Kading was also recognized for spearheading implementation of the department's deer depredation and walk-in access programs, and for his work with many local and regional work groups and agencies.

"He is considered a mentor and leader to not only our staff, but to those he works with from other states and agencies," Steinwand said.

Winkelman Named Wildlife Officer of the Year

Scott Winkelman, North Dakota Game and Fish Department game warden investigator, Bismarck, is the state's 2009 Wildlife Officer of the Year. Winkelman was honored recently by the Shikar-Safari Club International, a private conservation organization that annually recognizes outstanding wildlife officers in each state.

In a nomination letter sent to Shikar-Safari, chief warden Robert Timian said Winkelman is dedicated to his work, puts in long hours in the field and is a vital part of the department's law enforcement efforts. "His work ethic, experience and knowledge have made him extremely effective in providing successful investigation operations," Timian said.

Winkelman was mentioned for his skills in firearms, surveillance and operational tactics, and for improving networking with other wildlife agencies throughout the United States and Canada.

"Warden Winkelman does an excellent job of gathering and analyzing intelligence information, and provides sound leadership to field wardens on investigations involving violations transcending more than one field region," Timian said. "He is an excellent representative of the enforcement division and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department."

Game and Fish Recognizes Employee Efforts

North Dakota Game and Fish Department Director Terry Steinwand recently honored a number of employees with performance-based awards. Steinwand presented the following awards at the department's annual staff meeting Dec. 10.

Bruce Kreft and John Schumacher, Bismarck, and Brian Prince, Devils Lake, received the Special Projects award, given to an individual or group who either successfully completed a project of short duration, or

implemented a successful new project. They were recognized for their work in mitigating the impacts of a power line project that crossed the Willow Lake Wildlife Management Area in Bottineau County. "The process evolved into a complex and laborious situation that required numerous interagency meetings, on-site field reviews and alternative analysis," Steinwand said. "In the end, with the steady hand of these three individuals, the agencies agreed upon a mitigation plan for the project resulting in the acquisition of a wildlife management area round out in Pembina County. Their effort and skills were impressive."

- Bill Haase and Wesley Erdle, Bismarck, received the Solid Foundation award, presented to an employee or group who demonstrate exemplary work in the administrative, technical or support field. According to Steinwand, Haase and Erdle oversaw the construction of seven major boating access projects. "Their talents and common sense, along with the ability to creatively solve problems in the field, have allowed the department to take on these very large boating access projects, and have saved the department and sportsmen of North Dakota nearly \$100,000 this year alone. They played the role of surveyor, engineer and foreman," Steinwand said.

- Jeff Hendrickson, Dickinson, received the Public Outreach award, presented to an employee for showing a significant effort, ability or accomplishment in interacting with the public while promoting the department's programs. Hendrickson was recognized for his efforts in renovating Patterson Lake in Stark County. "Jeff did a superb job of identifying affected parties and working with them to gain their approval and cooperation," Steinwand said. "This project could have been scrapped at any time if even one of the affected entities objected, but due to his hard work and dedication, Jeff was able to successfully complete the project by garnering public support."

Bill Schaller, district game warden, Killdeer, received the 2009 National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Officer of the Year award for North Dakota. Each state in NASBLA selects a person for a national award. Among the criteria for receiving the award is boating activity in regards to law enforcement, education, search and rescue, outreach and training. Boat and water safety coordinator Nancy Boldt said, "Officer Schaller's strong belief in preventative boating enforcement is accomplished not only through boat patrols, but also by educating the state's youngsters at the North Dakota State Fair, fish camps and public schools," she said. "His professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm are an asset to the department and citizens of North Dakota."