

## **NDG&F January 24<sup>th</sup> Newsletter**

### **Spring Turkey Season Set, Online Apps Available**

The state Game and Fish Department is offering 6,720 wild turkey licenses for the spring hunting season, an increase of 80 from last year. The increase is a result of better turkey production in spring 2010, mostly in the hunting units bordering the Missouri River.

Six of the 22 hunting units have an increase in the number of spring licenses from 2010, while three have a decrease. Unit 21 (most of Hettinger and Adams counties) will remain closed in 2011 due to lack of turkeys in the unit.

Successful spring turkey applicants must purchase a 2011-12 hunting license, as last year's 2010-11 licenses expire March 31. In addition to the spring turkey license, hunters must have a fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate, and a general game and habitat license. Also, hunters ages 16 and older must possess a small game license, or combination license.

First-time spring turkey hunters ages 15 or younger are eligible to receive one spring license valid for the regular hunting season in a specific unit. To be eligible, the youth hunter must be 15 or younger on opening day of spring turkey season, and have never received a spring turkey license in North Dakota.

Spring turkey applicants can [apply online](#), or [print an application](#), at the Game and Fish Department website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). Applications can also be submitted by calling (800) 406-6409.

Application forms will also be available by Feb. 1 at most license vendors, county auditors and Game and Fish offices. The deadline for applying is Feb. 16. Online or phone applications must be logged before midnight that day.

Spring turkey licenses are available only to North Dakota residents. The spring turkey season opens April 9 and continues through May 15.

### **North Dakota Earth Day Patch Contest**

The state Game and Fish Department's annual Earth Day awareness campaign is accepting entries for design of a 2011 Earth Day patch. North Dakota students ages 6-18 are eligible to participate. The deadline to submit entries is March 15.

The Game and Fish Department will announce a winner in three age categories – 6-9, 10-13, and 14-18. Each winner will receive a pair of Leupold 8x25 compact binoculars. The final patch design will be chosen from the three winners.

The winning design will be used on a patch given to members of Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs and any school participating in Earth Day cleanup projects on state-owned or managed lands in North Dakota in April and May.

The patch should incorporate some aspect of Earth Day – celebrated April 22 – or keeping North Dakota clean. It must be round and three inches in diameter. There is a limit of five colors on the patch, and lettering must be printed. Name, address, age and phone number of the contestant must be clearly printed on the entry form. Only one entry per person is allowed.

For more information, contact Pat Lothspeich at (701) 328-6332.

 [Get Earth Day Patch Contest rules](#) (9Kb PDF)

 [Get Earth Day Recognition Patch Entry Form](#) (7Kb PDF)

 [Get Earth Day 2011 Report Form](#) (7Kb PDF)

### **Boat Safety Class Offered at Bismarck Sport Show**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will conduct a certified Boat North Dakota Safety Course on Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Bismarck Civic Center during the 2011 Bismarck Tribune Sport Show.

The five-hour certified class is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., and 1-4:30 p.m. in Prairie Rose room 105, located in the upper level of the exhibition hall. The class is limited to 25 students. The course is free, and all materials are provided. All registered students will receive a free admission to the Sport Show for that day.

State law requires youngsters ages 12-15 who want to operate a boat or personal watercraft with at least a 10 horsepower motor to first pass the state's Boating Basics Course. In addition, major insurance companies give adult boat owners who pass the course a premium discount on boat insurance.

For more information, or to register for the class, contact Pat Lothspeich at (701) 328-6332.