

NDG&F April 18th Newsletter

Time to Think Boating Basics

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department reminds outdoor enthusiasts of the requirements for youngsters operating a watercraft.

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.

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 can be found by accessing the department's website at gf.nd.gov. While the home-study course is free, students will be 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 on Boating Basics contact Nancy Boldt, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, by email at ndgf@nd.gov; or call (701) 328-6300.

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program Announces Schedule

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program has scheduled four outdoor workshops in 2011.

A mini-workshop will be held June 3-5 at Turtle River State Park, Arvilla. Course offerings include archery, birding, campfire cooking, global positioning system, mountain biking, orienteering, fly-fishing and general outdoor skills. Workshop fees of \$135 cover instruction in all sessions, program materials, use of equipment, all meals and lodging.

The 17th annual summer workshop is scheduled Aug. 12-14 at Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau. Participants may take several programs including archery, canoeing, field dressing big game, introduction to firearms, fly-fishing, kayaking, navigating outdoors, duck decoy painting, Dutch-oven cooking, global positioning system, plant identification, and tracking and trapping. Workshop fees of \$135 cover instruction, program materials, use of equipment, all meals and lodging.

Catfishing the Red River is set in Grand Forks Aug. 27-28. Participants must have a valid fishing license, and will be instructed in identification, tackle, gear and techniques of fishing catfish in the Red River. Workshop fees of \$50 include instruction in all sessions, program materials and use of equipment. No lodging is provided.

A waterfowl hunting workshop is scheduled Oct. 1-2 in Bismarck. Participants are instructed in firearm and waterfowl safety, shotgun shooting, waterfowl identification, water/field decoys and gear, and the techniques for decoying and calling waterfowl. Oct. 2 will feature a mentored hunt. Participants must possess a hunter education certificate, current hunting licenses and provide their own hunting clothing, boots or waders. Workshop fees of \$20 include instruction, program materials and use of equipment. No lodging is provided.

BOW workshops are designed primarily for women with an interest in learning skills associated with hunting, fishing and outdoor endeavors. Although open to anyone age 18 or older, the workshops are tailored primarily to women who have never tried these activities or who are beginners hoping to improve their skills.

To receive an [information brochure and enrollment form](#), access the Game and Fish website at gf.nd.gov, or contact Nancy Boldt, BOW coordinator, at (701) 328-6312; or email ndgf@nd.gov.

Paddlefish Snagging Season Opens May 1

North Dakota's paddlefish snagging season opens May 1 and is scheduled to continue through the end of the month. However, depending on the overall harvest, an early in-season closure may occur with a 36-hour notice issued by the state Game and Fish Department.

Legal snagging hours are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. One tag per snagger will be issued. Snagging is legal in all areas of the Yellowstone River in North Dakota, and in the area of the Missouri River lying west of the U.S. Highway 85 bridge to the Montana border, excluding that portion from the pipeline crossing (river mile 1,577) downstream to the upper end of the Lewis and Clark Wildlife Management Area (river mile 1,565).

Mandatory harvest of all snagged paddlefish is required on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. On these days, all paddlefish caught must be tagged immediately. The use or possession of a gaff hook within one-half mile in either direction of the Highway 200 bridge on the Yellowstone River is illegal at any time during the snagging season.

Snag-and-release of all paddlefish is required on Mondays and Tuesdays. Those planning to participate during snag-and-release-only days need to have in their possession a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag. Use or possession of gaffs is prohibited on Mondays and Tuesdays, and, if it occurs, during the snag-and-release extension period.

If the season closes early because the harvest quota is reached, an extended snag-and-release-only period will be allowed for up to seven days immediately following the early closure, but not to extend beyond May 31. Only snaggers with a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag are eligible to participate. Only a limited area at the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers is open to this extended season snagging opportunity.

All paddlefish snaggers must possess a paddlefish tag in addition to a valid fishing license and certificate that may be required. Cost of a paddlefish tag is \$3 for residents and \$7.50 for nonresidents.