

NDG&F August 15th Newsletter

Schadewald Retires, Link Named Chief

Longtime North Dakota Game and Fish Department division chief Paul Schadewald retired at the end of July after a 34-year career with the agency.

A Sykeston native and University of North Dakota graduate, Schadewald started his Game and Fish career in 1977 as the federal aid coordinator, and had served as administrative services division chief since 1989. In 2010 he assumed leadership of the conservation and communications division.

Greg Link, the department's assistant wildlife chief since 2001, was promoted to the conservation and communications division chief position Aug. 1. Link, a Richardton native with a degree in wildlife and fisheries zoology from North Dakota State University, started his career with Game and Fish as a wildlife technician in 1986. He was a habitat biologist from 1988-91, wildlife resource management supervisor from 1991-97, and private land coordinator from 1997-2001.

Game and Fish Starts Assessment of Missouri River Boat Ramps

As the Missouri River slowly recedes back to within its banks over the next few weeks, State Game and Fish Department biologists are anticipating that many boat ramps will require substantial work before they are useable again.

"We know that as the water goes down, people will be anxious to try to get their boats in the water for what remains of summer," Game and Fish Director Terry Steinwand said. "A few ramps may not require a lot of work to get them functional again, and we'll start on those as soon as we can."

Other ramps will likely require permits before needed construction can begin. "We're working with state and federal agencies to expedite the permits on those areas we believe we can make repairs rather quickly and provide boating access," Steinwand added.

If all goes well, Steinwand is hopeful Game and Fish can get a couple of ramps in safe working order by Labor Day weekend. The two most likely possibilities are Steckel (Wilton) and Kimball Bottoms (Desert), where biologists already have a sense of what repairs may be required to get them back in operation. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has scheduled the Tailrace ramp to reopen on Aug. 18.

It will likely take another couple of weeks before the water goes down far enough so Game and Fish staff can assess all 12 public ramps rendered unusable on the Missouri River between Garrison Dam and Lake Oahe.

As of Aug. 15, the only ramp providing good river access is the UPA (Stanton) ramp. Steckel is listed as marginal. Ramp status is detailed on the Game and Fish website at gf.nd.gov.

Landowners Looking for Doe Hunters

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is currently working with 30 landowners in 19 hunting units across the state who would like to host antlerless deer hunters in 2011. The current list of landowners has nearly 350 openings for doe hunters.

Participating landowners are located in hunting units 2C, 2D, 2G2, 2I, 2J2, 2K2, 3A4, 3B3, 3C, 3D1, 3D2, 3E1, 3E2, 3F1, 3F2, 4B, 4D, 4E and 4F.

The program is not intended for buck hunters, but designed to direct hunters with antlerless licenses to specific areas to reduce deer populations.

Interested hunters can get their [name on a list](#) of possible participants by accessing the Game and Fish Department's website at gf.nd.gov. Hunters who do not have Internet access can call the department's main office in Bismarck at (701) 328-6300.

Hunters will provide their address, hunting unit(s) where they hold valid antlerless licenses, and if using rifle, muzzleloader or bow. From this list the department will select the number of hunters landowners have agreed to host. These hunters will be sent the landowner's name, phone number and any information relating to the landowner's specific situation.

Not everyone who signs up will end up with a new place to hunt, because not everyone's schedule will match up with a landowner's, and more people will likely put their name on the list than there are openings.

North Dakota's 2011 regular deer gun season runs from Nov. 4-20. In addition, the archery season extends from Sept. 2 through Jan. 8, 2012; the youth season is from Sept. 16-25; and muzzleloader runs from Nov. 25 – Dec. 11.

Youth Events Promote Hunting, Shooting

The State Game and Fish Department's Encouraging Tomorrow's Hunters program is a primary sponsor for two outdoor learning events this weekend in the Bismarck area.

Ducks Unlimited is the lead organization for a youth waterfowl hunting clinic Aug. 19 and 20, while the Mule Deer Foundation is hosting its 4th annual MULEY Day Camp on Aug. 20.

The [waterfowl hunting clinic](#) is for youth ages 16 and under and their parents. It runs from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday, Aug. 19 at the DU Great Plains Regional Office. Sessions include duck biology, decoy spreads, duck identification, duck hunting gear, retrievers and calling.

The first 30 kids age 9 and older who register and attend the Friday morning session are eligible to attend a shooting event at the Capital City Sporting Clays range on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Preregistration is required by calling DU at (701) 355-3507, or emailing bjonesmahlum@ducks.org.

The [MULEY Day Camp](#) is also for youth ages 16 and under, and runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Moffit Gun Range. It includes rifle and archery target shooting, hunting and safety information and demonstrations.

All equipment is provided, along with a free lunch and door prizes. To preregister, email nbc.mdf@gmail.com, or call Ryan Krapp at (701) 471-8788.

The Game and Fish Department's [Encouraging Tomorrow's Hunters](#) program provides grant dollars to help local communities and organizations fund events that promote youth hunting and shooting sports. For more information, contact outreach biologist Pat Lothspeich at (701) 328-6332.