

## **NDG&F December 20th Newsletter**

### **Boats Need 2011-13 Registration**

Boat owners are reminded that 2011 is the first year of the new three-year registration period. The new registration cycle begins Jan. 1 and runs through Dec. 31, 2013.

Nancy Boldt, North Dakota Game and Fish Department boat and water safety coordinator, said boat validation stickers will have a new appearance and will be much easier to recognize. "The expiration year of 13 will be prominently readable in the middle of the new validation stickers, and the color will fall in line with the Coast Guard color requirements," Boldt said.

Regulations require the boat number to be in contrasting color to the hull in plain vertical block letters at least 3 inches in height, excluding any border, trim, outlining or shading, and must be maintained in a legible condition so that it is clearly visible in daylight hours. The number shall read from left to right, and groups of numbers and letters must be separated by a space or hyphen equivalent in width to the letter "M." A validation sticker issued by the Game and Fish Department must be displayed on the boat within 6 inches of the number toward the rear of the boat. No other numbers should be displayed in this area.

If in doubt, refer to page 10 of the 2011-13 North Dakota Boat and Water Safety Guide, Boldt said.

Boat owners should receive their registration renewal notice by the end of December. In addition, boat registrations can be renewed online at the department's website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), by accessing the online services link, and "watercraft registration and renewals" under the watercraft heading.

Also, anyone buying a new or used watercraft can register online and generate a 10-day temporary permit that is valid until the registration is processed.

Boat owners who did not receive a renewal notice by January should contact the Game and Fish Department at (701) 328-6335, or e-mail [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov). Many renewals are likely to be returned because some owners who moved within the last three years did not notify the department with their new address.

### **Whale Workshop Scheduled in Valley City**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the Valley City Area Teacher Center will host a whale workshop for educators and anyone else who works with youth.

The workshop, scheduled Jan. 12 from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Jefferson Elementary School in Valley City, will focus on how to use the inflatable life-sized whale in a learning environment. Curriculum materials that accompany the whale are suitable for grades K-6, and include mathematics, language arts, social studies and life science.

In addition to the whale, other Game and Fish Department learning trunks will be reviewed, including wildlife and water quality trunks.

Workshop instructor Sherry Niesar has a master's degree in wildlife science and teaches many educator workshops in the region.

To register for the workshop, contact the Valley City Area Teacher Center at (701) 830-9837, or e-mail [sandy.zahn@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:sandy.zahn@sendit.nodak.edu). A \$5 registration fee for materials and refreshments is required.

More information can be obtained by contacting Niesar at (701) 527-3714, or e-mail [sniesar@nd.gov](mailto:sniesar@nd.gov).

### **Paul Freeman Named Game and Fish Employee of the Year**

Paul Freeman, district warden supervisor for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in Devils Lake, received the agency's Director's Award for professional excellence during the department's annual meeting Dec. 9 in Bismarck.

Terry Steinwand, Game and Fish director, said Freeman has an ability to maintain a positive attitude when faced with adverse conditions. "This has been especially true with the lake continuing to grow, which presents many challenges that go beyond strictly law enforcement," Steinwand said. "Paul has provided the department with valuable insight into local issues. His work with the public in promoting and explaining department's actions has helped gain local understanding and acceptance."

Freeman's region has a number of enforcement challenges, Steinwand said, that involve legal and political interests. "Paul has handled these challenges in a manner that have earned the department and himself respect," Steinwand said. "He is both a working partner and leader in Devils Lake."

### **Josh Frey Named Wildlife Officer of the Year**

Josh Frey, North Dakota Game and Fish Department district game warden stationed in Bottineau, is the state's 2010 Wildlife Officer of the Year. Frey 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 Frey's district contains a variety of wildlife and recreational areas, including Lake Metigoshe, one of the premier recreation areas in the state.

"Warden Frey recognized that a problem with boating and alcohol existed on Lake Metigoshe, and has worked tirelessly in addressing this issue," Timian said. "Working with fellow wardens and other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, warden Frey organized increased lake patrols, and enlisted the help of the media to educate the public to the dangers of drinking and boating. The result of this continuing effort is a safer recreational environment on Lake Metigoshe and other lakes in the area."

Frey was also mentioned for his ability to assist other wardens with new technology. "Warden Frey's professionalism and willingness to help others presents an image of a district game warden that we are proud of," Timian said.

### **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. 9.

Jeff Long, Bismarck, received the Special Projects award, given to an individual who implemented a successful new project. Long was recognized for his work in organizing North Dakota's National Archery in the School Program, a program delivered during school hours as a physical education activity in grades 4-12. "Jeff pursued the program based on its interest to kids and outdoor recreation, and as a means to recruit and retain hunters," Steinwand said.

“The number of school participating in NASP has grown from 16 in 2007 to more than 80 this year.”

- Brian Hosek, Bismarck, was presented with the Innovations award, which recognizes staff for implementing a process to improve department goals and objectives. Hosek was recognized for his efforts with geographic information systems technology. “Brian produces high quality work on a consistent basis and in a cost-effective and timely manner,” Steinwand said. “His expertise and creative thinking has led to many practical, efficient and effective advances within the department. He is a known active leader in the GIS community, and continues to be asked by other agencies for his expertise in developing web-based systems.”

- Jerry Gulke, Bismarck, received the Solid Foundation award, presented to an employee who demonstrate exemplary work in the administrative, technical or support field. Gulke has managed the department’s database system for decades, and according to Steinwand, has provided an impressive foundation of reliable data sets for managed game species. “Jerry is dependable, and is dedicated to the department and the resource,” Steinwand said. “He offers wise counsel on a wide variety of wildlife management issues for North Dakota.”

- Ty Dressler, 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. Dressler was recognized for his efforts in sage grouse management habitat. “Ty represents the department at numerous meetings, workshops and events regarding sage grouse habitat issues,” Steinwand said. “He goes above and beyond to stay informed of national farm bill programs and policy as it relates to sage grouse, and provides valuable input and comments into program delivery and implementation.”

- Courtney Sprenger, district game warden, Elgin, received the 2010 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 Springer defines dedication, hard work, and perseverance. Her work ethic and professionalism have created a safer boating environment on waters in southwestern North Dakota. She has excelled in reaching out to young boaters by providing many hours of boat safety instruction, and her passion for boat and water safety is obvious to anyone who has had the pleasure of working with her.”