



Image: North Dakota Tourism/Dawn Charging

From the President

Hello! I hope everyone is having a beautiful spring. I know classes are in full swing and I hope they are going well. Please make sure that you keep track of the attendance and no-shows. We are trying to see if the trend of no-shows is decreasing, so please let me or your district representative know.

Please keep in mind the youth and mentored hunts that will be coming up this summer. The hunts do not have to be just birds. They could be coyotes, raccoons, or anything else that you can think of. Remember if you are a member of NDHEA, it is possible to assist you with funds for your hunt.

Keep up the good work!!

Jean Oster, President



Presidents Award for 2012 being presented to Rod O'Clair by Past President Curt Whalen.

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Interested in becoming an NDHEA member?

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Questions or comments?

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(Include NDHEA in e-mail subject line)

To find a hunter education course nearest to you go to:

www.gf.nd.gov

North Dakota Hunters
Education Association
P.O. Box 934
Minot, N.D. 58702-0934

www.ndhea.org



Retirement Cake presented to John Hanson at the April NDHEA quarterly meeting held at the NDGF Offices in Bismarck.

NDHEA Board Award for 2012 being presented to NDGF Hunter Education Director John Hanson by President Jean Oster.



Game and Fish Launches New Website

By Staff

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department website has a new look this month. Rich with graphics and added features, but retaining all the reliable functions that information seekers and license buyers have come to expect, the site still resides at www.gf.nd.gov.

“It’s been a few years since we last redesigned our site,” Craig Bihrlle, Game and Fish Department communications supervisor said. “The new version gives us more options for using images and video to promote our programs and events. We’ve still got some odds and ends to work on, but we wanted to get it out there when a lot of hunters and anglers are coming to our site to apply for deer licenses or buy their fishing licenses.”

While the Game and Fish home page looks different, Bihrlle says the online licensing process for buying or applying for licenses will look familiar. “Once you decide to buy a license online, you’re redirected to the same secure site as before.”

Now that the website redesign is complete, Bihrlle says Game and Fish will start working on a mobile application as soon as possible.



To comment on the new website or report any issues, email the Game and Fish Department at ndgf@nd.gov.

Annual Instructors Shooting Event at Zap

By Lori Schweigert

Join us for the Annual Instructors Shooting Event in Zap, N.D.! There are a few places for camping that will be available, but call ahead to get a reservation. The closest camping is in Zap at the City Park. The phone number to Zap City Hall is 701-948-2256. Also, call ahead to secure your camping spot. Another potential is in Beulah at their City Park. It is located right off Hwy 49. The number to the Beulah City Hall is 701-873-4637. The third location is up at Lake Sakakawea, north of Beulah and north of Hwy 200. This is managed under the Beulah Park District and their number for the Beulah Bay Campground is 701-873-5916.

Dakota Waters may be another option, but they may not be open this year. Their phone number is 701-873-5800, in case you wanted to try!

Please let Lori Schweigert know if you are coming and the number of people in your party. She will need to order enough steaks for everyone! Contact Lori through email at ljschweigert@hotmail.com.

2012 Deer Season Set

By Terry Fasteen, NDHEA Lifetime Member

North Dakota's 2012 deer season is set, with 65,300 licenses available to hunters this fall. This is 44,650 fewer than last year and the lowest since 1988.

Randy Kreil, wildlife chief for the State Game and Fish Department, said the decline in the deer population is a result of increased adult mortality and reduced fawn production following the severe winters of 2008 and 2010. In addition, the extreme winter conditions followed nearly a decade of aggressive deer management featuring large numbers of antlerless licenses in many units.

"It is expected there will be very few, if any licenses remaining after the initial lottery," Kreil said. "Therefore, there is not a concurrent season this year."

Hunters are able to draw one license for the deer gun season and one for the muzzleloader season, and purchase an archery license. Unlike the past several years, however, Kreil said a hunter will not be able to receive more than one license for the deer gun season.

Low deer numbers are evident in all portions of North Dakota, Kreil said, as all but two hunting units are below management goals. The statewide hunter success rate in 2011 was 52 percent, the lowest on record and well below the typical 70-75 percent success rate experienced by North Dakota deer hunters.

"The large decrease of licenses in 2012 is necessary to allow the deer population to grow toward management goals," Kreil said.

The mule deer population in the badlands was also stung by three consecutive harsh winters, with the three lowest years of fawn production observed from 2009-11. Survey numbers indicate mule deer in

the badlands are down 23 percent from last year and 52 percent below 2007. As a result, no antlerless mule deer licenses are available for the 2012 deer season in units 3B1, 3B2, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F, Kreil said. "This restriction applies to regular gun, resident and nonresident any-deer bow, gratis and youth licenses," he added.

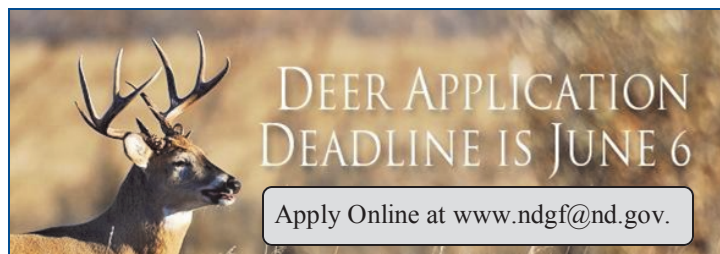
The number of licenses available for 2012 is 1,200 antlered mule deer, a decrease of 3,350 mule deer licenses from last year; 1,282 for muzzleloader, down 826 from last year; and 120 restricted youth antlered mule deer, a decrease of 130 from last year.

North Dakota's 2012 deer gun season opens Nov. 9 at noon and continues through Nov.

- Randy Kreil

25. Online applications for the regular deer gun, youth, muzzleloader, and resident gratis and nonresident landowner seasons will be available about May 9 through the Game and Fish Department's website at gf.nd.gov. Also, paper applications will be at vendors throughout the state the week of May 14. The deadline for applying is June 6.

Total deer licenses are determined by harvest rates, aerial surveys, deer-vehicle collision reports, depredation reports, hunter observations, input at advisory board meetings, and comments from the public, landowners and department field staff.



Visit WWW.NDHEA.ORG For the Latest News and To See Past and Current Newsletters!

Q & A: 2012 Deer License

In past years, hunters have been able to receive more than one license that is valid during the deer gun season. Is that be the case this year?

No. The number of licenses remaining after the first drawing will be small, if any at all. Therefore, hunters can receive only one license for the deer gun season. If any licenses remain after the first and second lotteries, they will only be available to those who applied in the first lottery and still have not received a license, or for those who did not submit an application for the first lottery.

If I receive a deer gun license, will I still be able to receive a muzzleloader license or purchase an archery license?

Yes, hunters can draw one license for the deer gun season and one for the muzzleloader season, and purchase an archery license. However, there won't be any additional antlerless deer licenses available this year, that in the past could be used during the archery or muzzleloader season in the unit designated on the license.

Can I use my deer gun license during the muzzleloader or archery season?

No. The deer gun license is valid for only the regular deer gun season. That option in past years was only available for second, third, or additional antlerless licenses.

I want a deer license this year so I want to increase my odds and apply for a doe license as a first choice. If I receive the license, will I lose my preference points?

Yes, preference points are based on your first choice. If you receive your first choice, you lose your preference points.

Can I use my gratis license to take a mule deer doe?

Gratis hunters whose land is located in 3B1, 3B2, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F **may not** take a mule deer doe with their gratis license. Gratis hunters in all other units may take any deer, including mule deer does.

As a landowner, if I apply in the regular lottery for a buck license as my first choice and a doe for my second choice, and receive a doe license, can I still submit a gratis application to get a license to hunt a buck?

No. If you submit a regular lottery application and receive a deer gun license, regardless if it is for a buck or doe, you are not able to receive a gratis license, as only one deer gun season license per hunter is allowed this year.

Since only one deer gun season license is available this year, does that mean landowners can receive either a gratis license or a lottery license, but not both?

That's correct. If a landowner applies for and receives a license in the regular lottery, he or she cannot also receive a gratis license. Landowners who apply in the regular lottery and are not drawn for a license can still receive a gratis license as long as there are unissued licenses.

I am a landowner, and often delay submitting a gratis license application until I know if I will have time to hunt deer. If I wait until later in summer to apply, will I still be able to get a gratis license?

Gratis licenses can be issued as long as licenses remain. However, with the dramatic reduction in licenses this year there is no guarantee that any licenses will be available after the initial lottery. Once all licenses are issued, Game and Fish is not able to provide further gratis licenses. Therefore, we suggest that landowners eligible for gratis licenses submit their application prior to the June 6 deadline to ensure receiving a license.

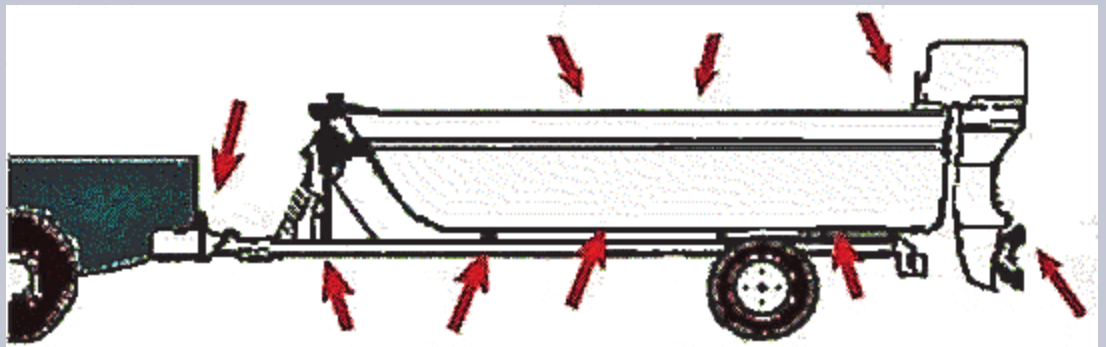
SUMMER FISHING FEATURE: Keeping Your Equipment and Bait Clean

Aquatic Nuisance Species are animals, plants and even diseases that are not native to North Dakota and have the likelihood to become well established if introduced. They can displace native plants and animals, and cause serious economic and ecological damage. North Dakota has adopted a number of rules designed to minimize the threat of ANS.

1. All aquatic vegetation and mud must be removed from boats, personal watercraft, trailers, and fishing and hunting equipment such as fishing poles, lures, duck decoys, and waders before leaving a body of water. That means "vegetation free" when transporting watercraft and/or equipment away from a boat ramp, landing area or shoreline. Additionally, hunters must brush hunting dogs free of mud and seeds.
2. All aquatic vegetation must be removed from bait buckets when leaving the water.
3. All water must be drained from boats and other watercraft, including bilges and motors before leaving a water body (**Note:** effective October 1, 2010, this includes livewells and baitwells).
4. Live aquatic bait or aquatic vegetation may not be transported into North Dakota.
5. All water must be drained from watercraft prior to entering the state.

Places where aquatic nuisances species can hide and hitchhike to new waters:

- Hitch,
- Live-well
- Mud & water on floor, transom
- Anchor rope
- Trailer frame
- Boat hull
- Rollers, bunks
- Axle
- Wheels
- Boat motor



Recommended Methods for Disinfecting Gear - Not Required

- Power wash the exterior and interior of the boat and trailer at a commercial carwash to remove small plant fragments and remove items clinging to the hull.
- Disinfect boat, live-well and bait-well, the bilge, or confined spaces, and other equipment with a solution of one part chlorine bleach to 20 parts warm water or wash the equipment with water that is hotter than 120 degrees Fahrenheit or air dry boat and trailer for five days in hot, dry weather.

SUMMER FISHING FEATURE: Aquatic Nuisance Species

Aquatic nuisance species threaten our fishing, boating, swimming, and other water-based resources. In those states where they have become established, ANS have had untold negative effects. They are expensive to combat, and in most cases where they have become established, they are difficult to impossible to control or eradicate.

Zebra Mussel

Attaches to rocks, docks, lifts, pilings, and junk on the bottom. More than 44,000 mussels per square yard have been reported. In large numbers they can plug municipal water intakes. Feeds by filtering water of organics. Can strain an entire lake in a short time. *Found in Pelican Lake area of western MN, which is a part of the Red River drainage.* Colors vary from sharply contrasting black and white to subtle gray to off-white. Adults and free swimming larvae can survive 14 days or more in moist areas.

Common Carp

They are found in many North Dakota waters, too numerous to list. A prolific fish that out-competes native and desirable sportfish. Survives high-nutrient waters. Only bullheads tolerate lower oxygen levels. Color almost black to dark-brownish yellow; fins yellow with bright orange edges.

Rudd



Less than 10 inches long. Resembles the golden shiner. Females spawn 2-3 times in a year. A one-pound female can produce 200,000 eggs. *Found in eastern US; recently in SD, MN, and some of the Rocky Mountain states.* Carries parasites, diseases thought to infect game fish.

Silver Carp Infestations

James River Stutsman, LaMoure and Dickey counties



Lives in large rivers. Concentrates below dams and can drive out desirable fish. Produces huge numbers of eggs that hatch quickly. *Found below Gavin's Point Dam (Mo. R.) and lower James R. in SD.* A tough fish that can weigh in excess of 60 pounds. When spooked jumps out of the water, creating an airborne hazard to boaters.

SUMMER FISHING FEATURE: Fishing Q & A

Are cormorants really a problem, and if so, what can the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the public do to help alleviate the problem?

The North American population of double-crested cormorants has grown dramatically in the past few decades and these birds have caused serious economic and recreational damage in many states. North Dakota is no different, as trout and panfish populations have been severely reduced in some lakes. Cormorants can and do eat more than a pound of fish per day and when a large flock of these birds concentrates on a fishing lake, they can cause significant damage in a short period of time.

Because cormorants are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Act, the public is not allowed to harvest (shoot, etc.) cormorants for any reason. The Department has been able to obtain a depredation permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that does allow some control of cormorants. Unfortunately, much more needs to be done before cormorants are no longer a serious threat to some fish populations. Hopefully, there will be more federal regulation relaxation in years to come to allow for thoughtful cormorant population reductions.

Why can't I release fish held in a livewell at the end of a fishing outing?

If allowed, fish that were stressed (e.g. on stringers, possibly not in a functional live well, etc.) would experience delayed mortality after being released. The fish may swim away but may not be healthy and eventually die. Further, if the release of a fish (or two) at the end of the day was allowed, it could possibly lead to high grading or culling. High grading is the practice of selectively harvesting fish – catching a fish, reducing it to creel (e.g. in a livewell), and then later releasing the fish after catching additional fish of a more preferable size. High grading is and has been against the law for at least the past 60 years in North Dakota. Allowing for some release of fish after being reduced to creel, would at the very least, complicate enforcement and at its worse, greatly confound the overall fishing regulations.

Why can't we “party” fish?

Each individual should have their own opportunity to experience and enjoy the outdoors ... and catch and harvest their own fish. There are always concerns that less experienced anglers, especially youth, are taken on fishing trips so older anglers can catch and keep additional limits ... and thus ruin the enjoyment of fishing for those who aren't allowed to catch their own fish. Also, North Dakota fishing regulations are based on past and present fishing experiences and success rates. If regulations allowed for party fishing, overall limits might need to be reduced.

District Representative's News

DISTRICT #3

By Darwin Bucholz

Like most hunters, I usually love the fall hunting season. However, my favorite season may be different this year. The way its sounding, I may not be drawn for a deer license due to a 40% reduction in tags.

I recently traveled a big circle in western North Dakota. On Saturday we left Rolla and I attended the NDHEA board of directors meeting in Bismarck. Then we travelled to Fergus Falls to visit our son. We drove home on Sunday and during the whole 750 mile trip, I only saw three deer. I might just have to spend more time hunting birds this fall.

DISTRICT #7

By Keith Domke

District 7 consists of Wells, Eddy, Foster, Kidder and Stutsman counties. It's not too early to start thinking about a Family Fun Shooting Event in your area. If you would like some help putting on an event in your area, let me know and I would be glad to lend a hand. Contact me at keith.domke@gmail.com or by phone at 701-252-8433 or 701-320-6983.

I'm working with the James Valley Pheasants Forever Chapter here in Jamestown to put on a TUNE (The Ultimate Nature Experience) Camp. The camp is a chance for youth to explore the outdoors, relax around the campfire and meet new friends while participating in the multitude of activities being offered, including: fishing with experienced anglers, shooting sports, wilderness survival, archery, hiking, wetland ecology, dog training, forest ecology, and much more.

The TUNE Camp will be held June 1-4, 2012 at Crystal Springs Baptist Camp in Crystal Springs, North Dakota.

I need Hunter Ed instructors to help instruct and supervise the shooting sports activities at the TUNE Camp on June 2nd. We will be shooting shotgun, rifle and pistol during the weekend. Please let me know if you plan to attend, your help would be greatly appreciated.

That's about it for now. If there is anything I can do to help you as your District Representative to NDHEA please don't hesitate to call or email.

DISTRICT #10

By Lynda Miller

Missouri Valley Family Shooting Day Update: This year the annual Missouri Valley/NDHEA Family Camp Day will be held at the Capital City Sporting Clays Shooting Range near Menoken North Dakota , East of Bismarck. We will have event flyers posted on the NDHEA website when they become available.

NDHEA Committee Update

April 28, 2012

Website:

- Uploading of the weekly updates provided by the ND Game and Fish Department forwarded on from John Hanson. Selectively picking up articles from the NDGF website that may be of interest or benefit to outdoor community. Respond to any input that comes our way. The webmaster Noel Ison reviews the site and posts the documents that he finds or that I send him.
- We set up the website link to Bry's Guide Service so that by clicking on it takes you to their personal website to review what they have to offer, and to show appreciation of their contribution to our effort. As per Association policy we would offer the same to any other large contributor to the Association.

Newsletter:

- We were a little better in getting things to me, but still took five weeks to get the information to me. Lisa Jackson is able to turn things around in a short time from the initial draft, but takes about a week for review to final publications. It would be nice if you would at least let me know if you are intending to give me something or not.
- Need some photos and right now you have a great opportunity with all the classes on going.

Historian:

- Moving items from emails, newsletters to Discs for future use.

Association Insurance:

- Renewed for this coming year after clarification of two items.

Event Coverage:

- Events that are covered are those that NDHEA is a listed Sponsor for and that we work at. In other words NDHEA Sponsorship has to be obvious, included in publications, advertising, fliers, and event documents.
- Those persons who are covered are NDHEA active members only. Other volunteers or helpers who assist at the event are unfortunately not covered.

VISION STATEMENT

A proactive, informed group of ND volunteers who dedicate themselves to promoting quality education, who are recognized as leaders in enriching our hunting heritage

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who participate, sponsor, and volunteer for the NDHEA.

Kadmas
Lee &
Jackson
Engineers Surveyors
Planners



Educational Websites

International Hunter Education Association
www.ihea.com
North Dakota Game & Fish
www.gf.nd.gov
North Dakota Shooting Sports Association
<http://ndssa.org>
Mule Deer Foundation
www.muledeer.org
North Dakota Bow hunters Associations
www.ndbowhunters.org

Other Great Links

www.fishingbuddy.com
www.bannersforsale.com
www.edsbaitshop.com
www.scheels.com
www.baconsigns.com

2012 Legislation Watch

Websites to view bills and to read blogs
www.nodakoutdoors.com
www.gf.nd.gov
www.northlandoutdoors.com.

North Dakota Legislative Council:
www.legis.nd.gov/information/bills



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