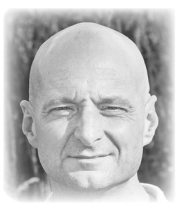

North Dakota Outdoors

by Doug Leier

While there's plenty of chatter about bowhunting, chasing upland game and planning for waterfowl and pheasant openers, there's a few topics that don't specifically pertain to any specific hunting season or activity. For instance.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Private Land Open To Sportsmen Guide for 2020 is available online at the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov. In addition, the free printed PLOTS Guide, which is not available to mail, can be found at most license vendors and other locations throughout the state, and at Game and Fish offices. The PLOTS Guide features maps highlighting walk-in areas, identified in the field by inverted triangular yellow signs, as well as other public lands.

The guide features about 800,000 PLOTS acres. Because the guide was printed in mid-August, some PLOTS tracts highlighted in the guide may have been removed from the program since the time of printing.

There will also be some PLOTS tracts where the habitat and condition of the tract will have changed significantly. Conversely, Game and Fish may have added new tracts to the program after the guide went to press. To minimize possible confusion, Game and Fish will update PLOTS map sheets weekly on its website.

The guides are not available to mail, so hunters will have to pick one up at a local vendor or Game and Fish offices or print individual maps from the website.

Waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are reminded a federal duck stamp is required for hunting ducks, geese, swans, mergansers and coots.

This year's 2020-21 federal duck stamp is available for electronic purchase through the Game and Fish Department's website, instant licensing telephone number, 800-406-6409, or at license vendors registered with the Department's licensing system. Physical stamps are not available at North Dakota license vendors, but they can be purchased at many U.S. Postal Service offices.

The electronic stamp is a purchase item like any other hunting or fishing license. When the purchase is completed, the electronic stamp is valid immediately. Federal Duck Stamp will be printed on the license certificate, along with an expiration date 45 days from the date of purchase. The actual physical stamp will be sent by postal mail.

The physical stamp is processed and sent by the official duck stamp vendor in Texas and should arrive well before the expiration date printed on the electronic license. The physical stamp must remain in possession of the hunter after the 45-day electronic stamp has expired.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Private Land Open To Sportsmen Guide for 2020 is available. NDGF Photo.

The federal duck stamp has a fee of $25. An additional $1.50 fee is added to cover shipping and handling costs of the physical stamp. Individuals who have questions regarding the status of their physical stamp can contact the federal duck stamp vendor customer service number at 800-852-4897.

Hunters, trappers and anglers are reminded that an equipment registration number, or the individual's name, address and telephone number, must be displayed on all equipment requiring identification.

While on state wildlife management areas, identification is required on items such as ground blinds, tree stands, cameras and traps. Identification must be attached to cable devices that are set on either private or public land, and on fish houses left unattended on the ice.

Owners can generate an equipment registration number by visiting Buy and Apply at the Department's website. One registration number will be issued that can be used on all equipment that requires identification.

The equipment registration number does not expire.

Dakota Recreation Report

by Patricia Stockdill

Outdoor notes:

*Watch wetlands and lakes for blue-green algae when hunting this fall and keep dogs out of any discolored and tainted water.

*Sept. 15: Western early Canada goose season closes.

*Sept. 19: Sandhill crane season opens.

*Sept. 19 - 20: Youth, veteran/military waterfowl season.

*Sept. 22: Eastern early Canada goose season closes.

*Sept. 26: Woodcock season opens.

*Sept. 26: Regular resident waterfowl season opens.

*N.D. Dept. of Environmental Quality issued blue-green algae advisories for Coal Mine, Buffalo, Dry, and Wood lakes and Devils Lake with warnings for Stump, Antelope, and South Golden lakes.

Fishing:

*Devils Lake elevation, Sept. 8: 1,449.33 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

*Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.35 MSL.

*Lake Sakakawea elevation: 1,840.14 MSL; 23,800 cubic feet per second average (CFS) Garrison Dam daily releases.

*N.D. Game & Fish Dept. Dist. game wardens: Limited reports from the east end and midsection of Lake Sakakawea. Missouri River chutes producing some nice-sized walleye.

*Devils Lake, Lakeview Lodge, Minnewaukan: Continued fair to good for walleye working shallow. Lots of small fish with larger ones still lurking closer to the weed lines

*Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Continued small walleye success using spinners and bottom bouncers with nightcrawlers. Some success starting with minnows, as well. Try trolling along highways from the shoreline working out towards deeper. Also try Pelican Lake.

*Foster County area lakes, Dry Dock, Carrington: Fishing is somewhat quiet throughout lakes.

*Jamestown Reservoir, Sooper Stop, Jamestown: Continued fair success throughout area lakes.

*Lake Ashtabula, Ashtabula Crossing, Luverne: Work a little deeper for a mix of crappie, bluegill, and walleye. Try the bridges or channel edges for walleye. Some 25- to 35-inch pike also showing up.

*Lake Ashtabula, Bayshore, Valley City: Continued fair panfish success.

*Lake Sakakawea, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Occasional walleye on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Try live bait presentations with some success starting on minnows, although nightcrawlers still producing some success. Move around to locate fish, which moved deeper. *Lake Sakakawea, Indian Hills Resort, Garrison: Tough walleye bite, in part with windy weather. Try working jigs, switching to minnows in deeper water and move around. General store now closed for the season but ramp is open with lodging and camping still available.

*Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon/Missouri River, Scott's Bait and Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace remains slow with best walleye success at night from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Try casting crankbaits from shore. Also try trolling crankbaits or 3-way swivels from boats in the chutes. Some catfish activity in the wing walls. Lake Sakakawea slow for walleye. Move around and try working structure along points in 35 feet. Salmon remain deeper but should move shallow with cooler weather so look for some shore success casting crankbaits. Try squids and flashers or herring along the face of the dam if working deep.

Hunting:

*Archery deer: Some early season activity but limited reports yet. Look for cooler weather to bring out more deer movement.

*Doves: Cool weather starting to bunch birds. Look for birds to move if cool weather.

*Early Canada goose: Some activity with fair success.

Numbers to know:

*N.D. Game and Fish Department, main Bismarck office: (701) 328-6300, website: (http://gf.nd.gov).

*N.D. Game and Fish Department, Devils Lake office: (701) 662-3617.

*N.D. Game & Fish Department, Jamestown office: (701) 253-6480.

*Report All Poachers: (800) 472-2121 or (701) 328-9921.

Our Outdoors

By Nick Simonson

They're Laughing with You

The day after I tagged my deer last season was warm, but windy, and there was no snow on the ground. It was more like a September scene than one from November. With temperatures in the mid-50s and gusty breezes at 25 miles per hour, I watched the hillside grasses bend as the northwest gales curled around the sunny side of the hill my lab Ole and I walked on during our final day of vacation which was set aside for big game, but now took on a new purpose after a punched tag.

Not a hundred yards from the truck came a sudden breeze and realization. The scent of something sporting was in the waving amber flow that we waded into. Ole scent-checked the air, sprung forward, lifted his nose again and bounded ahead. All around him, sharptailed grouse sprung up and gurgled as they battled the breezes to get aloft and away from us as fast as possible. I downed one and then another. I caught my breath as Ole retrieved the second bird and I reloaded as we approached the corner of the unharvested field and the small grass strip that led to the next grassy stretch of our walk.

Not three feet from me, a gray football sprang into the air and took a collision course toward my face, laughing the startled cry that the prairie birds are well known for. It banked about six inches away, sending a woosh of air into my ear. Nearly able to bat it from the air with the barrel of my 20 gauge scattergun, I ducked and shouted with a reactionary "AH!" as it peeled and turned down into the small valley and behind some brush, safely out of range. Ole paused and looked back, confused as to why I didn't close on the trifecta as the bird's chuckles were muted by distance and the continued gusts of wind.

Whether late-season birds like in last year's final hunt in November, or the early season coveys that take off from the edge of a stretch of light grassy cover, that laugh which sharpies make is a defining sound of fall. Sometimes, it's so startling that all one can do is instinctively flock shoot in desperation as a blur of beating wings takes to the air. Other times, it's almost maddening as the rush of a pointed bird on the rise consumes even the greatest wingshooter. In the end though, it's important to remember – or at least try to convince yourself – that the birds are laughing with you and not at you in the renewal of the great fall chase which binds us as hunters to the habitat that holds our quarry and reignites the matching of wits and skill against millennia of instinct and escape ability.

From the stands of buffaloberry bushes and buckbrush to the brome, bluestem and autumn-dried blossoms of a CRP stand, that covey rising is the reward for wearing down the leather of hunting boots, and the hope that one or two birds lag behind the group or a singleton somewhere along the trail pops up for an easy shot. While not as boisterous in voice or in fashion as their introduced contemporary, the rooster pheasant, sharpies are hardier and often harbingers of what the fall is to bring to uplanders across the plains. When their numbers are good, other upland birds have likely done well. Listening for that laugh, and looking for the lone sentinel on a haybale or the top of a stand of bushes signaling to the nearby group, is that first indication that autumn is upon us and all the excitement that awaits a good dog and a decent shot.

With the first major upland season and the pursuit of sharptailed grouse just days away and a cooling in the air this week, I'm able to laugh a little easier, knowing that good times like these and more memories to be added to the photo album are coming quickly with the start of the season that always produces at least a chuckle… in our outdoors.

Public Notice

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRUST LANDS FALL SURFACE LEASE AUCTION

The Board of University and School Lands will conduct an online surface lease auction for one thousand forty (1040) tracts in Adams, Barnes, Benson, Billings, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Divide, Dunn, Eddy, Emmons, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Pierce, Rolette, Sheridan, Sioux, Slope, Stark, Stutsman, Towner, Ward, Wells, and Williams Counties, ND. Tracts will be available to view on September 1, 2020. Bidding will commence September 28, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. CST and end October 9, 2020. The link to view the offered tracts and participate in the auction is:

https://www.energynet.com/govt_listing.pl

Anyone needing auxiliary aids and services should call the Department at (701) 328-2800 by 09/21/2020.

8/15/2020

/s/ Jodi Smith
Commissioner

Published August 31, and September 7, 14, & 21, 2020

NOTICE TO COMPETITORS OF HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVES

Notice is hereby given that the Eddy County Commission of New Rockford will meet at 9:00 A.M. on October 6, 2020 at the Eddy County Courthouse to consider the application of CenDak Cooperative for property tax relief on the project which the applicant will use in the operation of Agriculture at 6790 20th ST. NE, New Rockford, ND 58356.

Any competitor of that applicant may appear and be heard by the Eddy County Commision at the time and place designated herein. A competitor may provide written comments to the governing body before the scheduled hearing.

This notice is given by the above-named applicant pursuant to the provisions of North Dakota Century Code 40-57.1-03.

Published September 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE ND STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION

North Dakota livestock brands will expire on Jan. 1, 2021, in accordance with North Dakota Century Code 4.1-73-10. Present brand owners have the right to rerecord their brands. If a brand is allowed to expire, ownership interest of the brand will be lost and the brand may no longer be used.

In August, a renewal notice for each recording was mailed to the address on file in the brand recording office. If you have not received your notice or have questions about renewing a brand, please contact the North Dakota Stockmen's Association at (701) 223-2522 or visit www.ndstockmen.org.

Published September 7, 14, and 21, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF EDDY COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
Case No. 14-2020-PR-00015
In the Matter of the Estate of Pauline J. Ross, Deceased

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Stephen Ross, personal representative of the estate, at 105 County Highway #5, New Rockford, ND 58356 or filed with the Court.

DATED this 9th day of July, 2020.

Stephen Ross,
Personal Representative
105 County Highway #5
New Rockford, ND 58356
PETERSON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
523 Central Avenue,
P.O. Box 231
New Rockford, ND 58356
Attorneys for Personal Representative

Published August 31, and September 7 & 14, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF EDDY COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PROBATE NO.14-2020-PR-00018
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DORIS AMBERS, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Neil Rud, personal representative of the estate, at 1013 1st Ave. N., New Rockford, ND 58356 or filed with the Court.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2020.

Neal Rud,
Personal Representative
1013 1st Avenue N.
New Rockford ND 58356
PETERSON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
523 Central Avenue
P.O. Box 231
New Rockford, ND 58356
Attorneys for Personal Representative

Published September 7, 14, and 21, 2020

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
Vehicle AUCTION
Bismarck, ND
Wed., Sept. 23
11:00 a.m.
No onsite bidding. Live Streamed auction with online bidding only. 2.9% Buyers Premium applies to all sales.
For more information and complete listing of vehicles, check out our website at:
www.dot.nd.gov
Quick Links, Vehicle Auctions
or call (701) 328-1472
(Orr Auctioneers Inc. - Lic. #10)
To request accommodations for disabilities and/or language assistance, contact Civil Rights Division, NDDOT, 701-328-2978 or civilrights@nd.gov or TTY 711 or 1-800-366-6888.

Hunters asked to submit wing envelopes

Hunters can help in the effort to manage upland game birds in North Dakota by collecting feathers from harvested birds and sending in wing envelopes.

Birds included in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's upland game wing survey, which has been in practice for decades, are ring-necked pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, Hungarian partridge, turkeys and ruffed grouse.

Collecting enough pheasant samples is typically never a problem, but securing enough sharptail and partridge feathers can be.

Game and Fish biologists will take as many sharptail and partridge feathers as they can get because the more collected, the better the data. Biologists can determine if the birds are male or female, age ratios, survival, nesting success, hatch dates and overall production.

What biologists learn from samples is vital to helping manage North Dakota's upland game birds. Instructions for submitting wing data are printed on the envelope.

Hunters interested in receiving wing envelopes should visit the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov.

CONNECT WITH US!
Find and like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/NewRockfordTranscript

Transcript Publishing
817 Central Avenue, New Rockford
(701) 947-2417
CHECK OUT OUR RETAIL SHOP FEATURING NEW ROCKFORD AND ROCKETS APPAREL

CUSTOM PRINTING SERVICE:
Letterhead
Business Cards
Flyers
Booklets
Tri-fold Brochures
Invitations
Posters
Envelopes
• We print in-house and offer same day service printing
• Our printer is capable of full color and double-sided print jobs
• Custom screen printing on clothing
• New Rockford and Rocket themed apparel in all sizes