

North Dakota Wildlife Federation

Flickertales

Spring 2021



The North Dakota Wildlife Federation is a grassroots organization, which protects and enhances North Dakota's wildlife, wildlife habitat and access to that habitat, and promotes hunting, fishing, trapping and other wildlife related activities through education, programs, and projects.

North Dakota Wildlife Federation

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) is North Dakota's oldest, largest, and most effective conservation organization. NDWF was founded in 1935 by hunters, anglers, landowners, and other conservationists who were concerned about the loss of North Dakota's natural lands, healthy waters, and abundant wildlife. Our dedicated affiliates, volunteers, and staff maintain this legacy.

Affiliates

Barnes County Wildlife Federation
Bottineau County Wildlife Club
Cass County Wildlife Club
Central Morton Sportsmen's Club
Eddy County Rod & Gun Club
Hannaford Conservation & Wildlife Club
Hiddenwoods Sportsmen's Club
Kindred Wildlife Club
Lewis and Clark Wildlife Club
Missouri Valley Shooting Sports Association
North Dakota Hunters Education Association
North Dakota Fur Hunters & Trappers Association
Red River Area Sportsmen's Club
Richland County Wildlife
Stutsman County Wildlife Federation
Tri-County Trap & Wildlife Club

Executive Board Members

Dave Dewald, President, Bismarck
Kerry Whipp, Vice President, Pingree
Mike McEnroe, Secretary, Fargo
Terry Allbee, Treasurer, Bismarck
Dave Brandt, NWF Representative, Buchanan
Wayne Beyer, Past President, Wahpeton

At Large Board Members

Josh Holm, Director 1, Valley City
Joe Lautenschlager, Director 2, Berthold
Mike McEnroe, Director 3, Fargo
Paulette Scherr, Director 4, Kensal
Terry Allbee, Director 5, Bismarck
Nick Simonson, Director 6, Bismarck
Daryl Simmons, Director 7 Garrison
Gene Masse, Director 8, Bismarck
Joe Keller, Director 9, Wahpeton

Photos: Mike LaLonde, Matt Patrias, Nick Simonson



From the Executive Director

This continues to be an exciting time to be part of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation! As you can see throughout this newsletter, we are working hard on wildlife and habitat management policy, access issues, and R3 activities all over the state. The North Dakota Wildlife Federation spent a great deal of time and energy in the first couple months of 2021 at the North Dakota Capitol working to defend and enhance North Dakota's outdoor heritage. The biennial Legislative Session always demands a lot of our time and attention, but protecting ND's outdoor heritage is always worth it.

As in past sessions, our efforts in 2021 paid off. The hard work of NDWF board, staff, and members; combined with our constructive relationships with lawmakers and our strong coalitions with other conservation groups resulted in several major victories for wildlife and our outdoors. We also guarded the gate against numerous efforts to undermine our outdoor heritage. There will be a full legislative report in this issue of Flickertales. Please give it a read and talk to your legislators this interim about the importance of hunting, angling, trapping and conservation in the state of North Dakota. We will also be releasing a Voting Record in our summer issue of Flickertales - highlighting the biggest bills of the 2021 legislative session. The work is never finished, but at the end of the 2021 Legislative Session we came out ahead.

As the conservationist Doug Duren says "It's not ours, it's just our turn." This issue of Flickertales has a couple of action items - calling our elected officials about the confirmation hearing of the Director BLM and the hiring of a new Director of the ND Game & Fish Department. Both BLM and Game & Fish need strong leaders in the position that will advocate for our interests. Make the call and ask that our elected officials stand up for hunters and anglers. As always, you can rely on the Federation to continue to fight to give everyone a voice on conservation issues -- it's the only way that future generations can experience the outdoors as we enjoy it today. John Bradley, NDWF Executive Director

Contact John at jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com



Message from our President



The outdoors has provided a relief from a lot of Covid concerns. Now with the opportunity for vaccinations and spring and summer finally here, North Dakota is moving back to a new normal. Maybe not the way it was before Covid, but to a time when we can gather with family and friends and enjoy the camaraderie we became so accustomed to and missed so dearly during the height of Covid. Hunting and fishing became the escape for many people. Hunting and fishing license sales increased in North Dakota and across the United States. We need to keep the momentum going by keeping these new hunters and anglers participating and supporting habitat and access projects.

The legislative session is over, our Executive Director did a great job of representing sportsmen and women during the session. I think he batted 1000 on the bills he worked on during the session. The big win is SB2036 continuing the study on hunter access on

both public and private land. While SB2144, the electronic posting bill, was passed this session, we now need to work hard on increasing access to public and private hunting and angling resources.

SB2038 will give us the opportunity to continue to work on access issues at a legislative committee level during the interim. It will allow us to work out glitches in electronic posting and bring other issues forward such as increasing the ability for NDGF and NGO's to buy land for wildlife habitat and increase hunting access opportunities.

Don't forget to get new individuals involved with fishing this summer and hunting this coming fall. Whether it is youth or young adults hunting or fishing for the first time, we need to recruit. We need to reengage/reactivate those that have quit hunting and fishing. A lot of our affiliate clubs have been the leaders of R3 and I for one am proud of the work they and NDWF has done in getting new hunters and anglers excited about the outdoors.

Have a great summer setting the hook!

-David Dewald, President

NDWF Donates \$15,000 to Clay Target Leagues Across the State



The North Dakota Wildlife Federation has donated a portion of its Big Spenders Raffle to help the North Dakota Clay Target League continue to grow across the state. We truly appreciate all the work that Barnes County Wildlife puts into that great event - it truly powers our R3 initiatives. A new season of CTL kicked off in March. In addition to trap and skeet, the North Dakota State High School Clay Target League is adding five-stand and sporting clays to its offerings for the spring 2021 season. Schools can apply for NDWF's shooting sports grants at our website northdakotawildlife.org/grants

Stone-Manning Nominated as next Director of the Bureau of Land Management

For 75 years, the Bureau of Land Management has been tasked with sustaining the “health, diversity, and productivity” of 245 million acres of public lands for the benefit of all Americans. These lands support livelihoods for thousands of people; opportunities for outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing; and important habitat for a diverse array of wildlife.

Here in North Dakota, we can enjoy hiking, camping, and hunting on BLM lands. Unfortunately, these exceptional and essential lands and waters are at risk due to climate change, megafires, drought, invasive species, and poor management decisions. It’s a pivotal time for the agency, which needs to restore balance to its lands stewardship and ensure these unparalleled natural resources endure for future generations and contribute to our nation’s transition to a net-zero energy future.



That’s why it’s critical to have the right leader at the helm of the agency. As a Westerner, an avid outdoorswoman, and a consensus builder, Stone-Manning has spent her career advocating for the wise stewardship of our nation’s public lands and waters. For the past four years, she has served as associate vice president for public lands at the National Wildlife Federation where she led the campaign to permanently authorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She was also the architect of an expansive restoration and resilience plan for Congress to use in developing legislation to create jobs restoring our public lands.

Before coming to NWF, she was the chief of staff for Montana Governor Steve Bullock, director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and a senior advisor to U.S. Senator Jon Tester. Early

in her career, she led a river conservation organization that successfully advocated for hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up the Clark Fork River, one of our nation's largest Superfund sites. In all of these roles, she demonstrated a firm commitment to making sure our lands and waters are managed for the benefit of all –and the future.

Stone-Manning also has shown that she has the temperament and management skills necessary to bring together diverse groups of stakeholders in pursuit of collaborative policy solutions. People across the spectrum -- from ranchers to oil and gas producers to sportsmen and women -- see Tracy Stone-Manning as a person they can work with. BLM's "multiple-use" mandate requires exactly the type of collaborative approach that Stone-Manning has brought to her career. As Gov. Bullock's chief of staff, she oversaw day-to-day operations of his cabinet and the state's 11,000 employees, helped broker bi-partisan policy through the state legislature, and helped launch the state's first Office of Outdoor Recreation. At the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, she managed the department's staff and led the agency's work stewarding the state's water, air, mining, and remediation programs.

After more than four years without a Senate-confirmed director to lead the Bureau of Land Management, Stone-Manning is uniquely qualified to ensure that a balanced approach-- informed by science and involving robust public participation-- will guide management decisions. There is much to be done. That's why we need Senators Cramer and Hoeven and the rest of the Senate to swiftly confirm Tracy Stone-Manning so she can get to work conserving and restoring our public lands and waters so they will thrive for generations to come.

Please consider calling North Dakota's senators and urge them to support Tracy Stone-Manning for the Director of the Bureau of Land Management



Sen. Hoeven's Office Phone: (202) 224-2551



Sen. Cramer's Office Phone: (202) 224-2043

Game & Fish Director Terry Steinwand Set to Retire this Summer



Congratulations to Game & Fish Director Terry Steinwand for an outstanding career with the Department. Director Steinwand has announced his retirement for the end of July 2021. The Federation would like to thank Mr. Steinwand for his years of service to North Dakota's hunters, anglers, trappers, and natural resources. He has led the department with a steady hand and under his 15 year tenure as Director, North Dakota has earned a national reputation as a sportsman's paradise. Whoever replaces Steinwand will have big shoes to fill.

As the Governor begins the search for a new Director, we would ask that he considers a few things:

1. The Department should be driven by science, not politics. Whoever is considered for the position should be a wildlife professional, having a science background and ample experience in natural resource management.
2. Since hunters and anglers of North Dakota, fund the NDGF without any appropriation of State funds, they should have input into the process of selecting the next Director.
3. While the search for a new director should be a nationwide search, consideration of someone from within the Department is warranted. There are plenty of talented individuals within the Department who are wildlife professionals, have the background and management experience, and understand both the people and the issues facing the natural resources of our state.

Consider contacting the Governor's Office and requesting that the next Director be a wildlife professional and strong advocate for North Dakota's Outdoor Heritage.

Office of the Governor Phone Number: (701) 328-2200

Legislative Recap

By: John Bradley, Lobbyist



The 2021 Legislature was a busy one for issues affecting wildlife, habitat and access for hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts. As we have in years past, NDWF played a crucial role at the Capitol, monitoring key issues and speaking up for habitat, wildlife, access, and our outdoor heritage. NDWF worked closely with lawmakers of both parties to ensure that Game & Fish's budget saw an increase and that key conservation and access priorities got the staffing and funding needed to manage our public trust resources. We fought against any effort from legislators that tried to micromanage the Department of Fish & Game or impede on scientific wildlife management.

This session saw two bills from the Natural Resources Interim Committee study on access pass. The first bill, SB 2036, continues the interim process of studying outdoor access issues in ND. The second bill, SB 2144, establishes a statewide electronic posting system, allowing landowners to post their land physically or electronically for no hunting. This portion of the bill addressed a time-consuming and costly task for some landowners, while allowing those landowners who want to physically post or leave their land open to do so. The bill also provides a definition of a fence and provides that a fence is a secure premise, which can lead to enhanced charges for criminal trespass, addressing the landowners concerns over protestors, ATV users, or others causing a disturbance. However, licensed hunters and anglers are exempted and are still allowed to enter unposted fenced land when hunting or fishing. Hunters and anglers taking to the field can access which land is electronically posted by using the PLOTs guide online and printing off maps or by accessing the information from the Game & Fish

App on the ArcGIS Explorer platform <https://gf.nd.gov/plots/guide>. NDWF will continue to be engaged on this issue during the interim committee study and will work to build collaboration across the diversity of groups that represent North Dakota hunters and anglers. Sportsmen and conservation groups need to unite in order for us to increase public access and secure North Dakota's outdoor heritage in 2023 and beyond.

Other important victories for North Dakota's hunters and anglers included maintaining the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) at \$15 million for the biennium and protecting the Fund from special interest money raids. OHF which is funded from oil and gas production tax revenue, supports projects such as access to public and private lands for sportsmen, farming and ranching stewardship practices, fish and wildlife habitat improvements and outdoor recreation areas. In order to defend OHF – the Federation worked to build a strong coalition of hunting and conservation groups, agriculture and landowner groups, as well as representatives from the energy industry to ensure strong support for the program.

Like past sessions, sportsmen and women had to guard the gate when it came to our deer lottery system. We saw a variety of bills that looked to carve out tags from the big game lottery system for special interests, including hunter education instructors, disabled veterans, non-resident active military, non-residents that were former residents, and hunters 75 years or older. Sportsmen and women were united in pushing back against these attacks and were able to defeat all of these attempts to carve apart our lottery system.

Our successes this session will hopefully be a building block for future sessions. We will keep the sportsmen's coalition growing in the interim to ensure that the hunting and fishing community speaks with one voice on key conservation issues. That unity gives us more strength to pass key measures and we can build a better future for conservation, hunting and angling.

Get Down for Prairie Trout on the Fly

By: Nick Simonson

Stocked trout don't take long to acclimate to their surroundings. Within a week or two of the recent dumps of rainbows and browns across the state, these fish spread out and stalk the water column for just about anything edible. Whether that's the first rising midge populations of the year, small nymphs on the bottom, or other prey



items, trout find most of what they need below the surface. On those still evenings early on as they pick off rising insects, by all means, have a few dry flies at the ready for some fun surface action; but in most cases, getting down into the water column is important in upping an angler's catch rate on the long rod when fishing prairie impoundments.

Wrap It Up

The first option in getting down to the business of catching trout is to utilize weighted flies. The addition of a few coils of weighted wire when tying up a fly pattern will help it sink quicker after splashdown and get in front of trout where they are feeding. In lead and non-toxic alternatives, these coils can be easily wrapped along the hook shank when putting favorite patterns together at the vise and can be seamlessly worked into a fly. In diameters as small as .01 inches, the addition of these wraps can be used to tack on additional weight without bulking up a fly, though the latter can be accomplished to make certain patterns look more robust without the addition of other materials as well. For a more

subtle and natural look, weighted wire can be used on nymphs, such as the Pheasant Tail Nymph, or popular streamers like Woolly Buggers, without changing their standard profiles.

Get a Bead On It

Another way to add weight, and some fish-catching attraction, is through the use of a bead head on any nymph or streamer pattern. Over the last two decades, the expansion of not only the varieties and colors of beads, but also the materials comprising them, have changed greatly to the advantage of anglers. Where once brass and copper were the only colored beads fly tiers had at their disposal, now multi-hued beads and even candy-painted options that seem to change color with the angle at which the light hits them give trout anglers many bright ways to accent their flies while adding the weight that gets the offering into the strike zone. Additionally, the viability and mass-production of tungsten beads has helped provide a head that helps bring a pattern down faster than lead for those still water applications, but also in fast-moving streams. Add a bead of any sort for more weight and more flash to catch the attention of trout cruising in the water column.

Lined Up

When pattern adjustments with wire and beads aren't an option or simply aren't wanted, the line is the next best alternative for getting offerings in front of hungry rainbows and browns in a lake setting.

Utilizing a sinking line, designated as Type 3 or greater, anglers can quickly get down in deeper water – such as mine pits that are stocked with trout, or deeper stretches of impoundments – to find the fish, especially when things warm up and they seek cooler reaches to survive. While each brand and variety is different, the box that comes with the line will often provide the rate of sink (usually in inches-per-second) to help provide an idea as to how deep one can expect to be after a five or ten count following the cast.

Utilizing weighted flies and bead head patterns helps pull a fly down under the surface, and a sinking line will take things even further when trout are much deeper. Utilize some or all of these options as trout hit area waters and start staking out their spaces in the depths and get on down to them to increase hook-ups with fast action on the fly rod for prairie trout this spring.

NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat



Wildlife need our help. Human activity has changed and eliminated habitat, locally, and on the global scale, and birds, butterflies, and other wildlife are pushed into ever-shrinking wilderness areas.

You can make a difference. You can invite wildlife back to your own yard and neighborhood by planting a simple garden that provides habitat. Imagine your garden teeming with singing songbirds, colorful butterflies, flitting hummingbirds, and other small wildlife.

Providing a sustainable habitat for wildlife begins with your plants. That's why we call it a wildlife habitat "garden." When you plant the native plant species that wildlife depend on, you create habitat and begin to restore your local

environment. Adding water sources, nesting boxes, and other habitat features enhances the habitat value of your garden to wildlife. By choosing natural gardening practices, you make your yard a safe place for wildlife.

Creating a wildlife garden reverses some of the human-caused habitat destruction that is hurting wildlife. It's easier than you might think.

To learn more visit: <https://www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat>

Pictured: Cass County Wildlife Club and North Dakota Wildlife Federation members Eileen and Mike McEnroe recently enrolled their lake cabin property near Battle Lake, Minnesota in the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat program. Their 1.2 acre lot includes two wood duck houses (used by a wood duck and a hooded merganser this year) 16 bird houses, used primarily by bluebirds, tree swallows, and house wrens, two bat houses and a bee/pollinator house. Numerous bird feeders provide for passerine birds and hummingbirds, as well as the squirrels and chipmunks. The property contains over 90 native burr oak trees, and diseased dead elm and ash trees have been replaced with native red oak. Flower gardens have been replanted with native species and pollinator plants such as milkweed and gay feather. Several wood piles also provide habitat. Approximately 75 species of birds have been observed on the property as well as the adjacent lake,

NDWF Events

NDWF and our affiliates host educational and social events throughout the year. Check out our Facebook events page for details. Visit www.northdakotawildlife.org for upcoming board meetings information.

NDGF Deer license lottery deadline - June 2nd, 2021

NDWF Summer Board Meeting - July 10th, 2021

Lewis and Clark Summer Picnic - July 17th, 2021

Make an Impact

For over 80 years, the North Dakota Wildlife Federation has depended on donations from conservationists like you to support our work to protect North Dakota's abundant wildlife, our natural lands and waters, and our unmatched public access to the outdoors for future generations to enjoy. We are able to do so much to protect North Dakota's outdoor heritage because people like you decide to support our work. Your financial support is crucial to our ability to stand up to well-funded special interest groups at the North Dakota Capitol and in Congress. We need everyone who values North Dakota's outdoor heritage to get involved.



Make Checks Payable To:

North Dakota Wildlife Federation
PO Box 1091
Bismarck, ND 58502-1091



NDWF Membership Form

Individual Membership: \$15 - Associate/Business Membership: \$25 - Educational Organization: Free

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Make Checks Payable To:

North Dakota Wildlife Federation
PO Box 1091
Bismarck, ND 58502-1091