

# North Dakota Wildlife Federation

## *Flickertales*

*Spring 2020*



*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  
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  
Red River Area Sportsmen's Club  
Richland County Wildlife  
Stutsman County Wildlife Federation  
Tri-County Trap & Wildlife Club

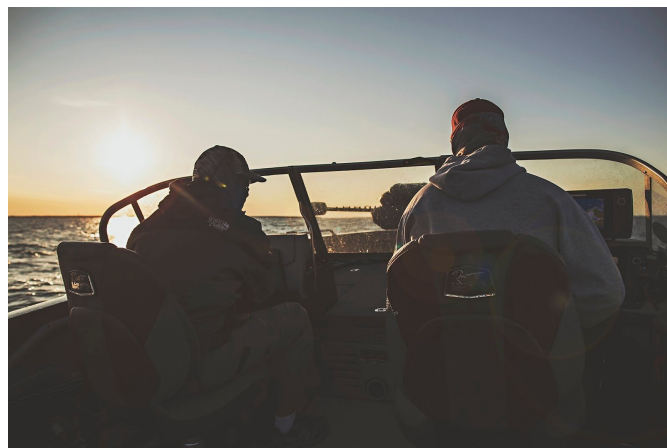
## **Executive Board Members**

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**

Dale Patrick, Director 1, Bismarck  
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, New Rockford  
Chuck Haus, Director 9, Hankinson

Photos: Mike LaLonde, Matt Patrias, Nick Simonson



## From the Executive Director

When conservationist and Pulitzer prize-winning cartoonist J.N. "Ding" Darling stood before attendees of the first North American Wildlife Conference in Washington, D.C., in 1936, he saw hundreds of seemingly disparate people, from hunters and anglers to gardeners, birders, farmers and ranchers. Yet Darling's illustration depicted their mutual frustration that more needed to be done to conserve America's dwindling wildlife. Darling implored the groups to unite: "Out of this meeting must come a definition of our common aims."

State representatives from organizations that attended the conference soon formed the National Wildlife Federation, with Darling as its first president. Eighty-four years later, the mutual passion of the current affiliates keeps them working side by side in a nonpartisan approach to conservation. This collective effort has saved some of America's most iconic species.

At the North Dakota Wildlife Federation's we are trying to build Darling's conservation army that unites all North Dakotans—regardless of interest, age, race, gender or ethnicity—to overcome today's wildlife crisis. NDWF's board, affiliates and volunteers are all over the state speaking up for North Dakota's outdoor heritage, involving people and new clubs in conservation, and advocating for science-based conservation of wildlife, water, and land.

It's my pleasure to welcome our newest affiliate the Cass County Wildlife to the Federation family. NDWF has a long history of working with Cass County Wildlife to protect North Dakota's wildlife and outdoor heritage. They bring over 200 members to our affiliate network and have decades of experience in propagating, conserving and protecting all forms of wildlife in North Dakota by educating, demonstrating the values of hunting, outdoor activities and how to respect nature. Please help me in welcoming them into the Federation network.

We can only accomplish our mission by working with other conservation voices from across the political spectrum - wildlands advocates, hunters and anglers, businesses, farmers and ranchers - to do what's best for North Dakota. We are stronger together.

Contact John Bradley at [jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com](mailto:jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com)



# Message from our President

*By: Dave Dewald, Board President*

During the last few months, North Dakota's natural resources have provided a safe and reliable space for our citizens. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is how important open space is to our physical and mental health. Fishing has been a great example. Never closed during the pandemic, fishing provided an opportunity to get out of the house, social distance, be safe, and enjoy the outdoors. Make sure you take the opportunity to let your state legislatures know how important North Dakota's natural resources are to the physical and mental health of all our citizens.

The Interim Natural Resources Committee met on May 11, via Microsoft Teams, to discuss the next step for electronic posting. The decision was made to start the electronic posting pilot and allow landowners in Ramsey, Stark, and Richland Counties, who wish to post their land, to do so electronically. The electronic posting pilot study application for the 2020-21 hunting season is hosted on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). Those landowners who do not wish to post their land or have not used physical signs in the past do not have to access the website in order to keep their land open to hunters.



Electronic posting is being looked at as a compromise to save landowners the time and expense of erecting posted signs. The pilot allows the state legislature the opportunity to determine acceptance by landowners and hunters alike. This fall during hunting season, hunters will be able to access an app on the NDGF website to find out where land in these three counties has been electronically posted.

No doubt the 2021 Legislature will be dealing with no trespass issues again. Hopefully, we will have some information from this pilot program to determine if electronic posting has the potential to be a compromise that may work for all counties in North Dakota.

We need to hear from you. I will try to bring your concerns to the table. - Dave Dewald, President of NDWF

# Poaching Ring to be Charged with 41 Counts

By: Nick Simonson

Criminal charges are expected to be filed against six Barnes County men for their involvement in the illegal taking of big game and other wildlife-related violations in recent months throughout the county, which allegedly includes the poaching of a number of whitetail deer. Combined, the complaints against the individuals are anticipated to allege 41 criminal charges in North Dakota's Southeast Judicial District Court.



At the center of the group of six alleged poachers and abettors is Jakob Ashline, 23, of rural Valley City, who is facing 21 total counts including: violation of protection of big game animals, using artificial light in the taking of big game, violation of resident licensing requirements, tampering with evidence, providing false information to law enforcement, hunting big game without an appropriate big game license and violation of North Dakota's big game proclamation.

"The total number [of deer at issue] I don't have, a lot of people are looking for that," said Tonya Duffy, Barnes County State's Attorney, "the problem is there is a lot of deer and you can only prove so much, so I'm charging him with everything I can prove, which is six deer," she concluded in relation to the charges expected against Ashline.

Ashline is currently serving a sentence of 200 days in the Burleigh County Jail for an incident in September 2019 in which he allegedly told arresting Bismarck police officers “if I ever find you, I promise I’ll kill you.” Ashline was charged in the September incident with misdemeanor terrorizing, refusal to halt and simple assault, and ultimately pled guilty on February 26, 2020 to misdemeanor charges of menacing, refusal to halt, disorderly conduct and preventing arrest.

Connecting Ashline to a number of other individuals involved in the alleged poaching ring is Ryan Rudolph, 19, of western Barnes County, who will likely face five criminal counts including violating protection of big game animals, tampering with evidence and providing false information to law enforcement.

Payne Drake, 21, of Valley City is expected to be charged with nine counts including aiding in concealment of big game unlawfully taken or possessed and tampering with evidence. Calvin Bjornson, 20, of rural Valley City is expected to be charged with three counts including failure to properly tag big game and aiding in concealment of game unlawfully taken.

In connection to the first four men, Tyler Anderson, 23, and Taylor Hejtmanek, 20, both of Valley City, will likely be charged with three counts each including refusal to halt, hunting with artificial light and illegal use of a rifle or handgun in the taking of raccoon or beaver.

“These are actions of slobs and poachers, not hunters; they take away opportunities from many people young and old to lawfully harvest an animal, and here they were needlessly slaughtered and went to waste,” commented Perry Kapaun, President of the Barnes County Wildlife Federation, on the pending allegations, “it’s a bad deal, it goes against everything that outdoorsmen and women and BCWF stand for,” Kapaun added, remaining hopeful for a resolution which goes to the fullest extent of the law.

***Members of the public can report suspected wildlife, hunting and angling violations throughout the state by calling the North Dakota Game & Fish Department’s Report All Poachers (RAP) line at (800) 472-2121. Rewards are offered for information which leads to a conviction and callers are given the option of remaining anonymous.***

## *Affiliate Spotlight: Velva Wildlife Club*



The Velva Wildlife Club (VWC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded by Velva area sportsmen with the goal of promoting: Firearm Safety, Hunter Ethics, Wildlife Habitat & Conservation, Youth Education, and Boating Safety

Our mission is to work with other area clubs and the NDG&F to provide area youth with opportunities to shoot, hunt, fish, camp, etc. Membership is \$50 per year or \$600 for a lifetime membership. Membership dues are used to help fund the events and projects that we will have throughout the year. For a membership application please email: [velvawildlifeclub@gmail.com](mailto:velvawildlifeclub@gmail.com).

**Meeting Schedule:** First Tuesday of the Month, 7pm



*Pictured: Youth Shooting Day*

To learn more visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Velva-Wildlife-Club>

# *LWCF: Jobs & Outdoor Access*

Numerous vulnerabilities in our economic and healthcare systems have come to light the last few months during the COVID-19 pandemic. But the crisis has also highlighted just how much Americans love—and need—to connect with nature on our public lands. Across the country, people have been flocking to local, state, and national parks – so much so that many parks had to be closed because social distancing could not be practiced. North Dakotans are lucky that we can responsibly find peace outdoors on our cherished lands and waters. Safe and easy access to the great outdoors is a privilege we cannot take for granted. And while I’m sure many have spent time bingeing Netflix shows (no judgement, I watched Tiger King too), the time spent outside with family will be the memories that we remember after the COVID-19 crisis is over.



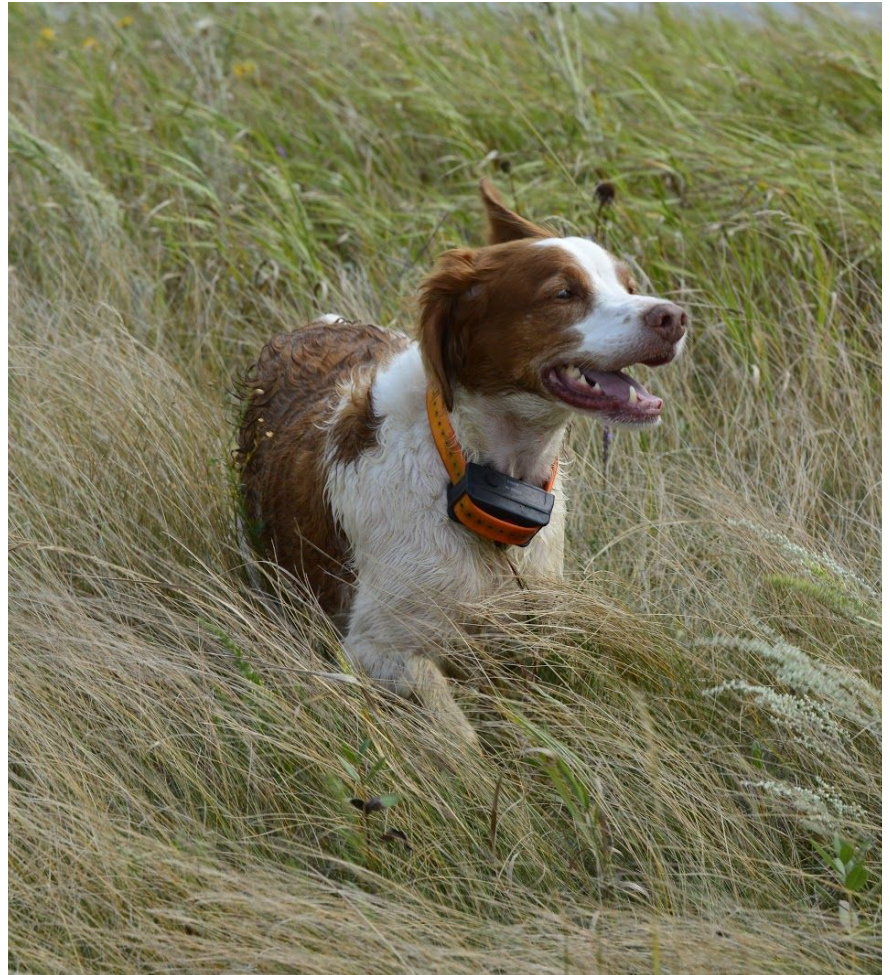
There is indeed a deep hunger to get outside every day for our physical and emotional well-being during the pandemic, but it is a trend that was growing even before the virus hit. The outdoor recreation industry has been booming: generating \$887 billion in consumer spending, creating 7.6 million jobs and providing cities and states with nearly \$60 billion in tax revenues annually.

As it happens, Congress is considering a plan that would tie together all of these benefits: generate new jobs, create new opportunities for recreation and provide fuel for state and local economies. It’s called the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and for more than 50 years it has helped create and maintain parks, hiking and biking trails, baseball fields, boating access and so much more in nearly every county in the United States. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is entitled to receive \$900 million every year — derived entirely from offshore oil



revenues. Unfortunately, only twice in its history has the fund ever received that full amount. Too often money has been diverted for non-conservation projects.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped support some of this nation's most beloved public places: from the Acadia National Park in Maine to Joshua Tree National Park in California and thousands of places big and small in between. Here in North Dakota, we have received approximately \$74 million over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site and the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site and projects in the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. It's hard not to imagine what additional parks, trails, and wildlife areas we'd be enjoying right now if only LWCF had been fully funded over the past 55 years.



Last year, Congress voted to permanently reauthorize the program, and just before the pandemic hit, lawmakers were poised to permanently fund it so it can reach its full potential. So now, when Congress is rightly focused on how to stimulate the economy, many leaders are realizing that one of the

solutions is right in front of them. Across the country there are thousands of shovel-ready projects just waiting for LWCF funding. These projects will provide real jobs in restoration, construction, and conservation. That in turn will provide additional opportunities for American families to get outside to hike, bike, camp, hunt, and fish and pursue other outdoor recreation passions. According to the Trust for Public Land, every dollar invested in LWCF returns at least \$4 in economic benefits. For an investment of \$900 million, that is a \$3.6 billion return.

While Congress is passing large stimulus packages, it is easy to overlook the importance of conservation. But now is exactly the time to make this investment in conservation and restoration to begin the economic healing from the pandemic. Providing full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund will produce jobs for the unemployed, provide new parks and hiking trails for our health and well-being, and stimulate our local economies with new recreation opportunities for generations to come.

## *NWF Partners with the Wild Harvest Initiative to Promote Wild Food and Conservation*



The outdoors are the fabric of America's collective heart. Every year millions of Americans head out into our nation's incredible landscapes to camp, hike, fish, hunt and recreate in myriad ways. From our world class national parks and wildlife refuges to our national forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, and state parks, we are incredibly blessed with amazing places to carry on our outdoor traditions. These places and the activities they support bind our families, incubate friendships, drive economies and promote physical and mental health.

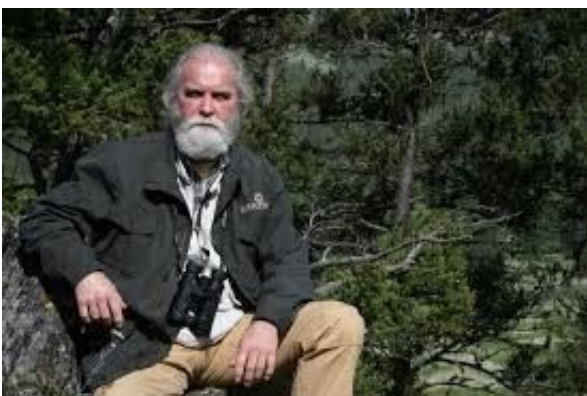
These landscapes also help support another critical and mostly unknown but invaluable asset – food for millions of Americans. From bass in a Georgia lake and trout in Colorado streams to white-tailed deer in the Michigan woods and elk in the Montana mountains to wild mushrooms in Vermont and huckleberries in Washington, our country is loaded with abundant opportunities to harvest healthy, wild foods.



The National Wildlife Federation and the Wild Harvest Initiative have joined forces to promote the incredible value of fish and wildlife and their conservation across America. We understand that without protecting important fish and wildlife habitat, many Americans will lose key sources of food and critical connections to our past and our family traditions.

We understand intimately that most Americans value the harvest of wild fish, game, and foods from our forests, wildlands and waterways. And we know that for these important traditions to continue we need to highlight

their incredible food value and their value to our uniquely American way of life. For instance, white-tailed deer harvested in 42 U.S. states provide enough meat to distribute 2 pounds annually to every single American and still have leftovers. And hunting overall provides an approximate minimum of more than 970 million pounds of meat annually in the US. Based on a 4 oz. serving, this equals more than 3.8 billion meals. (Source: Wild Harvest Initiative). That means untold meals with friends and family, a connection to nature, and an opportunity to further the cause of conserving America's great outdoors. In a modern world where people are losing their connections to the outdoors and to healthy, nutritious foods, sharing these meals and the experiences that help put them on our tables is more important than ever.



*We are honored to partner with Shane Mahoney and the Wild Harvest Initiative to share the bounty and the stories that make it all possible in the spirit of protecting our invaluable landscapes and waterways. Please enjoy our short videos series and look for more in the near future on this great partnership. Join us today in our plight to illuminate the amazing value of America's wild harvest and the need to protect the landscapes that make it all possible.*

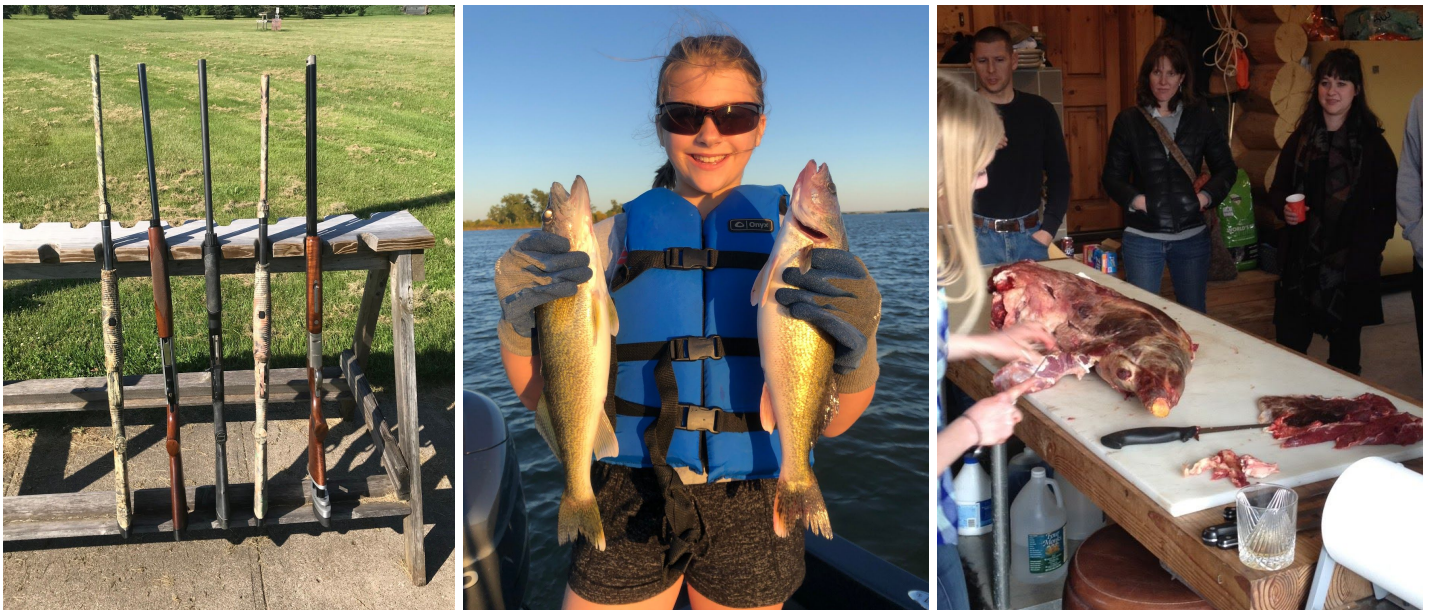
[What Is The Wild Harvest Initiative?](#)

## *R3: NDWF's New Program to Support Affiliate Efforts*

NDWF has long supported youth shooting sports across North Dakota. The expansion of the North Dakota State High School Clay Target League has provided many affiliates an opportunity to invest not only in the rapidly- rising popularity of shooting sports in the state, but also secure a longer-term return in the creation of competent shooters, hunters and conservationists who will become future members of their clubs.

Now NDWF is looking to further support affiliates' efforts to recruit new hunters and anglers. NDWF's affiliates host numerous youth and women events each spring and fall. The Federation has set up a small grants program for these hunts, fishing days, butchering demonstrations, and other events that work to recruit new hunters and anglers from a variety of backgrounds. **The deadline to apply for summer 2020 projects is June 30th.**

Want to learn more or have a project idea? Contact John Bradley at [jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com](mailto:jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com) or 701-390-7196



*NDWF supports multiple R3 activities - including youth shooting sports, fishing days, and outdoor skill demonstrations.*

# Close to Home

*By: Nick Simonson*

I'm not much for travel, even in the outdoors. Though it's the safest way of getting from point A to point B, I sweat profusely while aboard just about any airplane, regardless of whether there's fishing or hunting on the other side of the trip and often start dreading the flight back with three or four days to go in my vacation. While far more comfortable, there are few trips I make in the car for hunting or fishing that are more than an hour away, unless there's a farmhouse or a cabin that serves as a makeshift basecamp at the end. A good deal of my adventures occur just minutes out my front door, and more than 90 percent of them within an hour's drive.

From growing up on the Sheyenne River, fishing bullheads in the city park just half a block from the gravel driveway of my parents' house to later living on the north end of Valley City, dropping my small boat in off the pavement chunk launch at Chautauqua Park in search of smallmouth and walleyes, my time on the water started close to home, and I was lucky to have that close-by opportunity to form my love of fishing. After moving to Minnesota, I discovered dozens of grouse trails within 20 minutes of town for the fall and lakes loaded with crappies just minutes from home for late-night ice fishing adventures. In the state's southwest where I resided for almost a decade, nearly 40,000 acres of public land rolled out each fall and after the rush of opening weekend, they felt like they were mine alone to hunt for the rest of the season. Now, with the Missouri River and several dozen lakes within a quarter-tank's reach of my current residence, there's incredible opportunities – big and small – to explore.



It's these waters close to home that are most important, whether they're stocked trout lakes tucked into the hills, or walleye factories that span half a state; large swaths of federal land or the occasional WMA or WPA that plays hosts to grouse, pheasants, deer and other game, they provide a close by option, one that doesn't require a lot of travel or time to get to know.



Maximizing these opportunities means getting to know a water or a stretch of land, and in the process learning the points where fish reside, birds will flush and deer will travel. So much can be learned on small local waters that transfers well to other places to be fished in the future. Many of the tactics learned on the rivers and lakes I grew up around have served as a base for those flows I became familiar with later in life. In turn, I continued to grow from each new local option and further hone my skills on the water, with each season making me a better angler whether I focused on walleyes, bass, panfish or trout.

While the landscape changed from prairie to forest to farmland to river breaks throughout the front half of my hunting experience, picking apart each adventure helped me discover the things that defined upland game at their core. Both pheasants and ruffed grouse love edges. For the former, it's the breakline of grass between cattail slough and field and for the latter it's a cut between young aspen and pine that holds them. I've looked at online maps prior to heading afield to pinpoint brush in grassy areas that may hold sharptails, simply based on the work I've put in on public-access places in prairie grouse country, further developing my understanding of those birds based on the bountiful options just a few miles from home.

These places, practically in my backyard wherever I've lived, have not only made me a better outdoorsman, but have also deepened my appreciation for the work that goes into them. From the Game & Fish or DNR agent that puts in the time to stock a lake, open a boat launch or create a relationship with a landowner looking to open his or her land to public hunting, to the biologists and game managers who know what it takes to make a WMA work for both wildlife and hunters, keeping local places hunttable and fishable doesn't happen without their efforts.

It shouldn't take a four-hour trip to catch fish, shoot a buck or find a chance at a limit of pheasants, and appreciation for those opportunities close to home and what they can teach us about the world around us and the next place a few miles away comes from the efforts of many and those exerted to explore those areas that become close to us, both in terms of proximity and in the emotions, memories and familiarity we develop with them...in our outdoors.

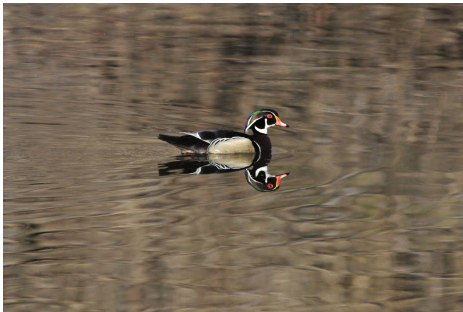
# NDWF Events

NDWF and our affiliates host educational and social events throughout the year. Check out our Facebook events page for details. Visit [www.northdakotawildlife.org](http://www.northdakotawildlife.org) for upcoming board meetings.

- Lewis & Clark Wildlife Club Summer Picnic: July 14th, New Generation Park in Bismarck
- Stutsman County Wildlife Wild Game Cook Off: July 18th, 3 pm, the Bunker in Jamestown
- **NDWF's next meeting will be held July 23rd, 2020 in Jamestown.**
- ND Fur Hunters and Trappers Assoc. Summer Rendezvous: September 19th in Sherwood

# 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 chip in \$25, \$50, or \$100 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. Please donate to NDWF today!



Make Checks Payable To:

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



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## NDWF Membership Form

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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