



State Chairman's Report By Sheldon Cieslak

It's been some winter and it's sure to have a short term negative impact across most of the state. Already at the end of December I received reports in my area of deer frozen solid in their beds. I have heard a lot of the state's pheasants have not fared so well either.

On a positive note we should have some wonderful waterfowl hunting this fall and for several years to come and a rebound in aquatic furbearers. I think we can all figure out what the fishing will be like in Lake Sakakawea in a few years. I personally look at the past winter as someone letting us know who really is in charge.

In February several of us made the trip to Jamestown to attend their annual banquet, (yes it stormed down and back) and I only ran off the road once and onto the shoulder but I was looking at deer at the time so it doesn't count.

Every thing about the banquet was impressive, even the attendance which I heard was down because of the weather. I would love to have one like this in Bismarck, maybe with the help of Mr. Clarence Bina we can get the Bismarck chapter going again. If anyone has any ideas on this let us know.

As of this writing, the 2009 legislative session is winding down. We had a good core group of directors to work with this year and our ongoing positive working relationship with the State Game and Fish department was evident.

I received a lot of input from my area this session but most of it was from non-members. The Board of Directors have stated a member's input out weighs any amount of non-member's opinions. This could be a selling point to get non-members to join.

We did have a member's survey this year but we started it about two months too late. I do not think this mistake will happen again. We will get the next survey out in plenty of time for 2011.

I think the baiting bill was the big one during this legislation. I am always amazed at the people who point out that we need to ban baiting or change some other law in order to unify hunters. I have heard this argument on several occasions and on several issues. It seems the very people who use this argument are the same people who fire off letters to the editor or write articles that are published. This stirs up a hornets nest along with the accusations of "if you don't see it my way you don't care about hunting" or "you are unethical" and say other things I will not get into.

Are we doing anyone any good besides the people who are against us with this type of open dissent? How many anti-hunters or animal welfare groups out there do you think read page 24 of the April issue of Field & Stream and said to each other "the plan is working." Do not kid yourself, the people against us do pay attention to what we make public. This is their best source of ammunition to use against us.

Change is often good and often necessary. I just feel we need to come up with a better way to do things. As of now we have several things in the planning stage. If things progress as we think I will have more to report on in my next article.

I wish every one a great spring and summer.

Area 1 Report

By Corey Paryzek

Thank you to all of the attendees, sponsors and workers at the Upper Missouri United Sportsmen banquet this year. The organization continues to grow thanks to all of the support.

This spring the Upper Missouri United Sportsmen chapter hosted 3 sessions of a concealed weapon class with 30 per class. There had been interest in this class for some time, but it got a boost in part due to the upcoming change to state concealed weapons permit process.

This year the Upper Missouri chapter gave out 8 scholarships to graduating seniors: Sarah Walz, Tucker Overland, Jamie Halvorson, Max Longtin, Garth Hagen, Stacey Lacrosse, Malinda Jo Bjella, and Lucas Natwick.

The local chapter's wildlife feeding program had lots of demand with the harsh winter conditions. Locally the feed project filled a need for helping pockets of birds survive the winter, hopefully to quickly repopulate the area. We gave out about 3,000 bushels of grain and 70 large round bales of wheat. Some of the screenings were donated, but the better quality feed was purchased. Farmers/ranchers in the area intentionally and unintentionally fed much more than this.

Conditions were such this year that deer mortality was considerably higher than normal in the NW corner of the state. One observation was many of the dead and dying were bucks, possibly due to going into winter in tough condition after rut. Hope it was a limited occurrence. Coyotes are running around quite fat.

Paddlefish season will likely be on by the time you receive this. We are expecting another good year. Last year was primarily a male fish year with about 80% being males in the 25-40 lb range, many of which were hatched in 1995. Should be some more females reaching spawning maturity in the coming years. The Game & Fish studies indicated a great paddlefish hatch in 2008.

Lobbyist Report

Clarence Bina

When I was playing high school sports fifty years ago, we had a saying that kind of fits my role as the USND lobbyist and this 61st Legislative Session: You win some, you lose some, some get rained out, but you dress for them all. Well, I dressed for them all, and USND won more than we lost. I know, keeping box scores on legislation doesn't always match up with the final votes and may, indeed, sometimes be a pointless exercise. You judge. **And, one more thing: just because USND didn't prevail on a vote doesn't mean that USND was on the wrong side of the issue!**

First, here are some statistics from January 5 to April 30, 2009, regarding my lobbying activities:

- 1) I participated in six Tuesday night conference-strategy calls with the Board during the session;
- 2) sent eleven weekly lobbying reports to the Board,
- 3) provided monitoring/signing-in/testimony at 52 hearings,
- 4) participated in twelve ND Game and Fish-Lobbyist meetings at the NDGF Department on Tuesday mornings, and
- 5) racked up about 350 miles coming and going to the Capitol/USND Office/NDGF Offices.

Second, in order of bill number, here are the big issues:

HB 1045—Prohibition of severance of hunting rights from the surface estate. USND supported the prohibition. Passed. We won.

HB 1167—Allows for 13 year olds to hunt deer. USND supported this. Passed. USND won.

HB1216—Changes small game and waterfowl hunting periods for nonresidents. USND opposed. Failed. USND won.

HB 1227—Provides for a "provisional" hunting license. USND opposed. Passed. USND lost. This became SB 2165 below.

HB 1239—Provides for clarification on posting land. USND supported. Passed. USND won.

HB 1499—Provides for restricting dates on gun dog trainers in the field. USND opposed. Failed. USND won.

HB 1567—Allows for booking agents for guides/outfitters (called the Cabela's Bill). USND opposed. Passed. USND lost on this one.

SB 2165—Provides for "apprentice hunter validation" license. USND opposed. Passed. USND lost.

SB 2264—Provides for special nonresident season-long small game license. USND opposed. Failed. USND won

SB 2351—Prohibition of baiting big game. USND opposed. Failed. USND won.

Third, what generalizations can be made from all this law-making per hunting, fishing, trapping? Here's what I think is happening and will continue in the 2011 legislative session:

1. ND lawmakers are bent on giving nonresident hunters more and more breaks in license fees and extended periods (days) to hunt--all to the detriment of ND hunters.
2. ND lawmakers view our wildlife resources as marketable commercial "goods" to be sold at every opportunity in the name of "economic development"—again, all to the detriment of ND resident hunters. This is related to Number 1 above.
3. The baiting bill will be back; in my opinion this is the most divisive issue among hunters--and may continue to be. Maybe it's irresolvable.
4. Pressure will continue to license ten-year-olds to hunt deer with high powered rifles.
5. Some kind of "posting" legislation will be back. Bet on it.

To the extent that sportsmen's groups having good standing among the ND Legislature, I think USND has as good a standing as any of the groups.

Finally, I thank the USND Board for hiring me as your lobbyist this legislative session. I tried to look to all of our best interests. You should also know that each Board member cares deeply about conserving our resources for our future hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreational opportunities.

2009 Raffle Winners

Thank you to all who participated!

1st Prize: Benelli Ultra Light 12 Gauge - Tim Kleven, Williston (no photo available)



2nd Prize: Remington 700
SPS .270 -
Tim Dabill, Jamestown



3rd Prize: Savage 93R17FV 17 HMR
21 HVY BBL Blued 5SH
Zach Gjovig, Crosby

4th Prize: \$100 - Troy Worm, Jamestown

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Area 7 Report By Dennis Kraft

What a Spring! Water everywhere. Tough times for a lot of people, but the sun is shining as I look over the Jim River from the 2nd floor of my home. First floor is evacuated at present with the crest coming within the week.

As we all experience this time and we take a breather, it is appropriate to focus on the future. In the Jamestown area we are focusing on the future of Pipestem Rifle Range. We had to remove much of the infrastructure and we hope to restore it when possible.

The migration is about over and the nesting season is high hopes for the Fall season.

Thank You!

A special thank you to the Upper Missouri United Sportsmen Chapter who donated \$1,500 to the United Sportsmen of North Dakota

Thank You Area 1



*The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the view of the USND or its board. This newsletter provides an opportunity for members to express their view points on many different ideas.
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