



Hunter's Haven

2023

North Dakota is a hot spot for hunting of all kinds – duck, geese, pheasant, sharp-tail grouse, moose, whitetail deer and more. Read all about current and upcoming seasons.

Supplement to: McLean County Independent, Central McLean News-Journal and The Leader-News

A family affair

The Steele sisters' first bear hunt

BY: ETHYN WILLIAMS-CALVERT
ethyn@nordaknorth.com

For the Steele family of Garrison, hunting is more than just a hobby; it's a cherished form of family bonding.

This June, the family took this tradition to a new level by embarking on a bear hunt in Vermillion Bay, Ontario.

The week-long adventure was the first bear hunt for three of the family members—Kambrey, McKailyn, and McKenna—and proved to be an experience they'll never forget.

Hunting has always been central to the Steele family's life.

"I've been hunting since I passed my hunter's safety course as a child," says Kambrey Steele.

McKailyn echoes this sentiment, stating that hunting has always been their "main form of family bonding."

While the family has a rich history of hunting, this trip marked their first family bear hunt.

"My brother and dad went on one last year, and my dad has been multiple times, but this was the first one for us girls," adds McKailyn.

According to Kambrey, "It's boring sitting in a tree stand for that long, but when that bear comes in, your heart starts racing."

The thrill peaked when a bear climbed up to their tree stand, locking eyes with her and her father.



(From L to R) McKenna, Kambrey, Casey and McKailyn Steele pose in their camo gear before departing on their week long bear hunt in June 2023. (Submitted)

McKailyn described the experience as an "unforgettable feeling," noting the patience required during the long hours of sitting and waiting.

The Steele sisters did not come home empty-handed. While Kambrey and McKenna each brought home a bear, only the pelts were salvageable due to the meat spoiling.

The family plans to make mounts and rugs from the hides, keeping the adventure alive in their home.

Although the bear hunt was a significant milestone for the family, it's far from their only hunting experience.

Kambrey usually hunts deer, dove, pheasant, and waterfowl, while McKailyn prefers bow

hunting. "I shot a moose with my bow, and that's what got me hooked originally," she shared.

Whether it's the heart-pounding thrill of encountering a bear or the quiet patience required in a tree stand, the Steele family's inaugural bear hunt in Vermillion Bay was filled with unforgettable moments.

With each sister bringing her own interests and experiences to the table—from waterfowl



(From L to R) McKenna, Casey, McKailyn and Kambrey Steele pose with one of the four bears the family brought back from their hunt in Vermillion Bay, Ontario. (Submitted)

to bow hunting—the family's hunting tradition continues to thrive. And as they look back on their Ontario adventure, they

all agree: this bear hunt was a thrilling experience they would recommend any hunter experience for themselves.

Hwy 83 Lawn & Leisure
is your Hunting Headquarters!

- Guns & Ammo
- Primos Hunting
- Hoppe's
- Buck Bombs
- Scent Away
- Black Hole Targets
- Real Deal
- Moultrie Game Cameras

1619 HWY 83 NW
Intersection of Hwy 83 & Hwy 37
GARRISON, ND

Lawn, Leisure & Tools
701.337.2500

202 Main Street • Max, ND
701-679-2111

FULL SERVICE RESTAURANT & BAR

WE WELCOME ALL HUNTERS!

HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 11 a.m.-2 a.m.
Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m.-2 a.m., Sunday: Noon-10 p.m.

DAILY FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

like us on facebook

Clip 'n' Save

2 FOR 1
Drink Coupon
Red Light Bar, Max, ND • Expires 12-31-23

Clip 'n' Save

\$5.00 OFF
One Entree
Red Light Bar, Max, ND • Expires 12-31-23

Hunting Hours

Hunting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise (except opening day) to 30 minutes after sunset. Hunters must cease any hunting activity, leave any stand or blind, and must be in the process of leaving the field at the close of shooting hours.

Source: North Dakota Game and Fish

2023 North Dakota Hunting Season

BIGHORN SHEEP SEASONS

General Season Nov. 3-Dec. 31
Bighorn sheep hunting is only available by permit lottery.

ELK SEASONS

Archery/Bow Sept. 1-Sept. 24
General Season Sept. 1, 2023-Jan. 7, 2024*
*Season dates vary by zone. Elk hunting is only available by permit lottery, and dates may vary by region.

MOOSE SEASONS

Archery/Bow Sept. 1-Sept. 24
General Season Oct. 13-Nov. 5
Moose hunting is only available by permit lottery, and hunting may be limited to specific regions.

PRONGHORN SEASONS

Archery/Bow Sept. 1-Sept. 24
General Season Oct. 6-Oct. 22
Pronghorn hunting is only available by permit lottery and may be limited by region.

WHITE-TAILED & MULE DEER SEASONS

Archery/Bow Sept. 1, 2023-Jan. 7, 2024
Youth Season Sept. 15-24
Firearms Nov. 10-Nov. 26
Muzzleloader Dec. 1-Dec. 17
Deer hunting is only available by permit lottery.

TURKEY SEASONS

Fall General Season Oct. 14, 2023-Jan. 7, 2024
Turkey hunting is only available by permit lottery.

SMALL GAME SEASONS

Tree Squirrel Sept. 9, 2023-Feb. 29, 2024
Hungarian Partridge Sept. 9, 2023-Jan. 7, 2024
Ruffed Grouse Sept. 9, 2023-Jan. 7, 2024
Light Geese - Resident Sept. 23, 2023-Dec. 29, 2023
Male Pheasant Oct. 7, 2023-Jan. 7, 2024
Weasel - Traps Oct. 28, 2023-Mar. 15, 2023
Bag limits, special seasons and hunting regulations for North Dakota hunting seasons do vary based on animal and seasons. For more information on obtaining licenses, permits and regulations, visit the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website.

Source: North Dakota Game and Fish

Be safe & have a great hunting season

Roosters & Rain

BY NICK SIMONSON
Our Outdoors

In my early morning walk with the dogs, the lone frog croaking out in the last empty lot on the north end of the neighborhood and the cool, heavy, foggy air hinted at a season out of place. It seemed more like spring than the cusp of October, but in just a couple weeks, pheasant season will open instead of that first run of walleyes being the highlight on the calendar. The recent autumn rains that have soaked the area have left ditches full like they were five months ago, as if restored by the vernal meltwater following our snowy winter and the rains have added a challenging element to the upcoming hunt. As sloughs get recharged from summer dryness and low areas are inundated with a bit of swampiness, here are some things to keep in mind for a pheasant opener that may be a little wet in areas if this trend continues, or another late fall soaker changes the landscape later in the season.

Shifting Edges

Pheasants like to stay dry, and they love edges at any time of year. When sloughs fill up and their centers become full of water and that water pushes out toward the edge of the thicker vegetation, pheasants will change their locations with the shifting water level. In the mornings, look for birds to be in the drier areas of slough cover, utilizing cattails on the edge of those spaces where grass cover and especially small rises are adjacent to the reeds. There pheasants can easily move up into the grass or more open hillsides with sparser cover to get dry from the dampness of overnight. If there's a slough next to a gravel road, all the better to mark that on your mental map, as the birds will utilize that man-made edge as well to get high and dry in the early goings and get a little grit for the day as well.

Hidden Humps

Much like the edge of a slough isn't static, there are areas within thicker cover that allow pheasants to get above the water even out in the middle of a large cattail flat. Be it small humps of dirt, piles of old reeds, or perhaps a thicket of brush growing in those wetlands, these locations are often interspersed in what looks to be a homogeneous stretch of swampy vegetation. Let dogs work a bit deeper into the wetlands to locate those spaces that – even though they are wet – will still harbor pheasants. Additionally, if your favorite upland areas have a swampy base to them, after a soaking, consider switching footwear so you can sneak in along flooded deer trails or into those more open spaces where



pheasants can get out of the water, but still remain comfortably concealed. Changing from an upland boot to a waterproof boot more often reserved for later in the season, or even deer hunting or ice fishing, can help get you access to better pheasant hunting when things get wet.

Other Cover

If a slough is filled to its brim, and maybe even overflowing into a ditch, there's likely less cover for pheasants to use and those walks in the dank of the deep areas may be less enjoyable, and ultimately less successful. Look around your favorite hunting area for other cover that keeps pheasants secure. It may be a cluster of brush along the hillside leading down to the swamp. It could be a row of pine trees on the windward edge of

the property. Or it may simply be a tall stand of cane running up the drain down to the lower portion of the land. These spaces are not only generally drier than a slough, but also provide good cover to keep pheasants protected from the elements and predators. When things get too damp in low spaces, go high and hit those points of interest that pheasants utilize in wet weather.

While predicting the weather a couple weeks ahead of pheasant opener isn't easy, changing your plans based on the conditions is. Knowing how to adjust to a wetter landscape or shifting tactics if your long-scheduled weekend is a rainy one will help you find where pheasants are holed up and ultimately provide a more successful hunt, no matter what the conditions...in our outdoors.



RUD
Oil & Gas
GAS • DIESEL • PROPANE • OIL

Center, ND | 794-3169



Where to hunt?

Public Lands *(Special Regulations May Apply)*

- U.S. Forest Service National Grasslands
- U.S. FWS National Wildlife Refuges
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ND Forest Service
- ND Department of Trust Lands

- ND Game and Fish State Wildlife Management Areas
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. FWS Waterfowl Production Areas

Note: Not all lands owned by the agencies listed below are open to hunting. Please review the current hunting guides and PLOTS guide for specific lands open to hunting. Contact the North Dakota Game and Fish Department or the manager of the land on which you wish to hunt if you have questions.

State Wildlife Management Areas

State wildlife management areas are located throughout the state. Unless otherwise specified, WMAs are open to hunting, fishing and trapping. Check the current hunting and fishing regulations and proclamations for details. Most WMAs are ideal for nature study, hiking, and primitive camping.

Waterfowl Production Areas

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; about 263,000 acres in North Dakota. Almost all WPAs are found north and east of the Missouri River. Generally they are less than 640 acres, but some are larger.

National Wildlife Refuges

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, these public lands encompass more than 200,000 acres. Many refuges allow deer and upland game hunting. Hunting opportunities vary, so contact individual refuges for details.

Wildlife refuges are also excellent sites for wildlife viewing. Many have auto tours and interpretive sites.

Information on specific refuges is available at each refuge headquarters.

Note: Use of nontoxic shot for all types of bird hunting is required on all land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

State Trust Lands

Managed by the State Department of Trust Lands, North Dakota has more than 700,000 acres of state school trust lands, formerly known as state school land. Much of this land is leased for agricultural purposes, primarily cattle grazing. School trust land is generally open to hunting. However, operators leasing the land may close access if livestock is present.

Department of Trust Lands public access information.

U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service manages three national grasslands in North Dakota, totaling about 1.1 million acres. The largest, the Little Missouri National Grasslands, is about 1 million acres and contains much of western North Dakota's badlands. Much of this land is leased for agricultural use, but is open to public access.

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM manages nearly 70,000 acres in North Dakota, much of it in the western part of the state. Much of this land is leased for agricultural use, but it is open to public access.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Corps of Engineers manages more than 500,000 acres, much of which is under the water of the state's major reservoirs like Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe, and a number of smaller lakes. The Corps manages some of the land surrounding these reservoirs, with public access usually available. The Corps also leases many thousands of acres to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for use as wildlife management areas.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

The USBR manages close to 100,000 acres, much of which lies along the Garrison Diversion Canal project. A good share of this land is open to public access, while vehicle use on some roads is restricted.

North Dakota Forest Service

The state forest service owns land, primarily small parcels, in the Turtle Mountains and Pembina Hills. These areas are generally open to public access.

A Note About Private Land Access in North Dakota

While public land provides varied opportunities for hunters and anglers in North Dakota, much of the state's hunting takes place on private land. Permission is always required to hunt private land that is posted.

Private Lands

(Around 93% of North Dakota lands are in private ownership.)

Can Hunt Without Permission:

- Land that is **NOT** posted physically or electronically
- Private Land Open to Sportsmen PLOTS
— Walk-in access only or as signed —
- To recover game without a firearm

A Note About Private Land Access

While public land provides varied opportunities for hunters and anglers in North Dakota, much of the state's hunting takes place on private land. Permission is always required to hunt private land that is posted.

Can Hunt Only With Permission

- Within 440 yards of an occupied dwelling
— Through their agreement with NDGF, landowners enrolled in PLOTS have given permission to hunt within 440 yards of dwellings
- Land that is posted physically or electronically
- Rights-of-way and section lines
— May travel (not hunt) section lines without permission
- Unharvested crops (even if not posted)

Source: North Dakota Game and Fish

Season Restrictions

Deer Bow: See Special Herd Reduction Deer Bow Seasons. During the regular gun season orange clothing is required of all bowhunters and anyone accompanying apprentice license holders. Nonresidents are restricted to species of deer described on license. For residents, any deer is legal.

Youth Deer: Residents who turn age 11, 12 or 13 in 2021 – antlerless whitetailed deer only. Residents who turn age 14 or 15 in 2021 – any deer is legal. No unit restrictions, except in units 3B1, 3B2, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F, a special license is required to hunt antlered mule deer. Those possessing restricted antlered mule deer licenses may hunt only in their designated unit the entire season. Orange clothing required for youth hunters and mentors. Each youth hunter must be under direct supervision (must be able to have unaided verbal contact) of an adult who is prohibited from carrying a firearm or bow while accompanying the youth hunter during the youth season.

Deer Gun: Restricted to type of deer and unit described on license. Type of deer includes species and sex. See map on back for unit descriptions. Note exception for white-tailed deer hunters in units 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E (see below). Orange clothing required for all hunters, and for anyone accompanying apprentice and youth license holders.

Muzzleloader: Restricted to antlered or antlerless white-tailed deer only as described on license. No unit restrictions. Orange clothing required for hunters, and for anyone accompanying apprentice license holders.

Source: North Dakota Game and Fish

On the hunt for new business cards? Brochures? Flyers? Stop by or call 463-2201 for all your printing needs!



NORDAK NORTH Promotional Products

Main Street, Garrison, ND • 463-2201

“North Dakota’s Family of Family Newspapers”
Printers and Publishers





Local brothers developed love of hunting through childhood trips with dad

Duo already off to a friendly rivalry contest as one brother bags large mule deer with bow

BY KELLI AMELING
Associate Publisher
leadernews@nordaknorth.com

A local family is already off to a fun competition this hunting season after one brother bagged a "bruiser of a muley" during the first weekend of September.

Tagen Bertolotto ventured out opening weekend of bow season and shot a 5x7 mule deer with his bow.

"It was the biggest I have gotten," Bertolotto said reflecting on his hunting career.

He said he had seen the mule deer a few days before and had kept an eye out for it. While hunting, he was able to sneak up on it and shot it from 50 yards away.

"I hit it pretty bad," Bertolotto said, explaining he had to take tracking dogs out in the rain to try to find it.

Although there was 3 inches of rain, he said, the dogs were able to pick up on a scent and found the deer. However, when it was found, it was still alive, Bertolotto said he had to put it out of its misery.

Bertolotto said he plans to have the mule deer mounted while making sausage out of the meat.

Hunting family

Bertolotto said he has spent most of his life hunting, which started out tagging along on hunting trips with his father.

When his little brother, Tate Bertolotto, was old enough, he would go on the hunting trips, as well.

"Our dad would always take us out," Tagen said.

Tate said trips with his dad also made him fall in love with the sport.

"I fell in love with getting outside, seeing different scenery and the animals," Tate explained. "The experience just made me really enjoy the sport."

Tate said one of his favorite memories hunting with their father was around 2014 when they were hunting outside of Underwood. He said his dad was able

to shoot a big white tail deer and the experience was a memory Tate will keep.

"I was going to shoot it before, but I held off so he could get the one he got," Tate said with a smile in his voice.

As the brother duo grew older and they started hunting on their own, Tagen and Tate said they still like to keep a little competition between them to add even more fun to the sport.

Both of the Bertolotto brothers said their favorite memory hunting together was when they took a trip to the Badlands and shot their game within five seconds of each other.

"Tate came out with the bigger buck," Tagen laughed.

Tate, also laughing described the moment as "awesome."

"It was awesome being the little brother getting the bigger one," Tate laughed.

Recently, Tate moved from



Courtesy photos provided by the Bertolotto family

Brothers Tagen and Tate Bertolotto share a favorite hunting memory of bagging bucks within 5 seconds of each other.

HUNTING
continued on page 8

Weekend Specials
Fri & Sat Nights
Starting at 4 p.m.
RIBEYE,
5 PC. SHRIMP,
OR WALLEYE

- Daily Specials • Malts
- Fresh Baked Pastries

Ye Olde Malt Skoppe

Main Street • Garrison, ND
463-2322
www.yeoldemaltshoppe.com

We Accept Credit Cards
Find us on Facebook

YOUR HUNTING HEADQUARTERS!

SHELL VESTS*
Reg. price \$39.99-\$42.99
NOW \$29.99

BUCK BOMBS*
Joe Nestius (2-pack)
Reg. price \$22.99
NOW \$18.99

*In-Stock Merchandise Only!

STEALTH CAM*
Product #0Z18K
Reg. price \$149.99
NOW \$129.99

Birchwood Casey GUN SCRUBBER
15 oz.
Reg. price \$13.99
NOW \$11.99

CENEX Bait & Tackle
Located inside Garrison Cenex
463-2256
www.cenexofgarrison.com

Open 7 Days a Week at 6 a.m.

- Breakfast Served All Day
- Serving Steaks, Beer, Wine

FOUR SEASONS RESTAURANT
Main St. • Garrison • 463-2044

Family Friendly Full Service Dining

Business for Sale

Store Closing November 1st, 2023
GIFT Cards Honored until November 1st, 2023

40% off Summer Fishing Gear

50% off Ice Fishing Gear

Every Department on Sale!

DAKOTA TACKLE **NORTH DAKOTA'S LARGEST TACKLE SHOP!**

2001 E. Expy N Bismarck
(701) 222-3092
MON-FRI 8 A.M. - 8 P.M.

SALMON HEADQUARTERS!
Rods, Reels & Combos, Dodgers, Flashers, Squids, Flies, Teasers, Stingers, Flutter Spoons, Speed Indicators, Downriggers, Accessories, Diving Devices & more!



Ziemann takes her shot

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
Tysonsmestad@nordaknorth.com

She heads out with her stepdad Marcus Matthews before sunrise for youth waterfowl weekend.

Eleven-year-old Piper Ziemann took Hunters Safety last year in anticipation of this day.

Preparations started last week. Marcus has thrown clay pigeons for her. She has picked off a few mourning doves in the yard with a pellet gun.

He's always said whatever you hunt you don't let go to waste.

She took this to heart.

"Try this, it's really good," she says while holding a plate of sautéed mourning dove, she and the neighbor prepared, up to Marcus's face. He gladly obliged and popped a chunk in his mouth.

They've been talking about this morning for a few weeks, and she has her outfit picked out, she is, remember, a preteen girl. She's decided on camo head to toe, a cross body bag with gum and lip gloss.

The hunting spot was picked the night before, a slough about



Piper Ziemann and Marcus Matthews shows off her ducks from the mornings hunt.

10 miles north of Garrison.

It's sunrise on Sunday morning. There is a slight crispness in the September air.

Marcus and Piper chatted as they walked through the field of fresh cut canola.

Her with her 20 gauge over and under pointed at the sky, and he

with his load of decoys clanking over his shoulder.

"I got you a different gun this time. There will be a bit more kick back, but you'll get two shots from this one," he said.

She's never shot at an actual duck.

She's a bit nervous, but ex-

cited.

They stand in ankle deep water behind some tall grass with the decoys floating in front of them.

They wait patiently.

The first group of ducks unknowingly start floating by.

Marcus whispers, "There you go. Not the first one, that's a coot, they don't taste good. Go for the second one."

She raises the gun, tucks it into her shoulder and takes aim. Pop. She takes her shot.

It's hit.

One duck down, a gadwall.

"Nice shot," Marcus says beaming. Followed by a high five.

"I think I'll name him George," Piper says.

She must be a natural.

Now, they wait again.

About a half hour later here comes a lone Blue Wing Teal.

Pop, pop. Two shots and she has her second duck.

"Good job, Pip," Marcus said.

In between ducks, she's still a kid, playing with the cat tails and joking with Marcus. A noise that sounds somewhat like a duck call comes from Marcus's direction. Piper slowly backs away with a knowing look. Marcus assured her he's the only one that will suffer from said 'duck call' due to his chest high waders. They both giggle.

They discuss the best way to prepare duck breast and the consensus is stuffed with cream cheese and wrapped in bacon.

All of the sudden, here comes a group of low flying Blue Wing

ZIEMANN

continued on page 9



Piper Ziemann with her first duck 'George' during her hunt on Sunday, September 17.



Piper Ziemann takes aim at her first duck during Youth Waterfowl weekend. All it took was one shot.

GEAR UP FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

ATVs

2023 Coolster Mountopz 110cc ATV Spider Web Blue.....	\$1,395
2023 Coolster Mountopz 110cc ATV Blue	\$1,395
2023 Coolster Mountopz 110cc ATV Black.....	\$1,395
2023 Coolster Mountopz 110cc ATV Spider Web Black.....	\$1,395
2023 Coolster Mountopz 110cc ATV Camo Pink.....	\$1,395
2023 Coolster Mountopz 110cc ATV Spider Web Red.....	\$1,395
2023 Coolster Mountopz 125cc ATV Camo Green.....	\$1,395
2023 Coolster Mountopz 125cc ATV Spider Web Red.....	\$1,795
2023 Coolster Mountopz 125cc ATV Spider Web Black.....	\$1,795
2023 Coolster Mountopz 125cc ATV Blue	\$1,795
2023 Coolster Mountopz 125cc ATV Camo Gray	\$1,795
2023 Coolster Larder-XD 125cc ATV Red.....	\$1,895

GO KART/JEEP

2023 Coolster Challenger Jeep, 125cc Green.....	\$3,195
2023 Coolster Challenger Jeep, 125cc Red	\$3,195
2023 Coolster Challenger GK-125B, 125cc Go Kart Black	\$2,395
2023 Coolster Challenger GK-125B, 125cc Go Kart Red.....	\$2,395
2023 Coolster Challenger GK-125, 125cc Go Kart Black.....	\$2,695

DIRT BIKES

2023 Coolster Speedmax 110cc Dirt Bike Orange.....	\$1,295
2023 Coolster Speedmax 110cc Dirt Bike Orange/Blue	\$1,295
2023 Coolster Speedmax 110cc Dirt Bike Black/Red.....	\$1,295
2016 KTM 250 SX 200cc 2 Stroke Dirt Bike 89 Hours.....	\$6,995

SCOOTERS

2023 Bintelli Scorch 50cc Green.....	\$2,195
2023 Bintelli Scorch 50cc Gray.....	\$2,195
2023 Bintelli Escape 50cc White.....	\$1,995
2023 Bintelli Scorch 150cc Blue.....	\$2,495
2023 Bintelli Scorch 150cc Green.....	\$2,495

ELECTRIC BICYCLE


Bintelli Florence EBike.....	\$1,300
------------------------------	---------




We Buy • Sell
Trade • Consign • Rent
(701) 463-2440


112 South Main • Garrison, ND
"The coffee is always on"

Double "Armed & Accurate since 1976"






See us for new & used guns and all your ammo needs!



We buy Guns!



New Hours
Mon. - Fri.
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
& Sat. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Largest Used Gun Selection in the Area

1021 S. Washington St.,
Bismarck
(701) 223-4888
(Just behind Jiffy Lube)
hhgunshop.com

Moby duck

BY DON WINTER
don@nordaknorth.com

"Call me Ishmael"...okay please don't, I don't think I would like being an Ishmael, it's one of the few names out there that's actually worse than my middle name.

So why do I mention it then? Well, because that is the way that Herman Melville starts his classic novel Moby Dick.

Now, if you are like me, you probably slept through the portion of literature class focusing on Melville and the American Renaissance period during your time in high school.

I mean sleep was the only way to make it through such trying times back then, what with the I-pad and internet not having been invented yet.

I don't think the kids of today realize just how good they have it when it comes getting out of studying subjects like the American Renaissance period.

So why do I bring it up then? Well, if you will remember, it was only last month that I found myself hanging out on the "lovely" east coast with my wife's family, in the quaint tourist trap of Mystic, Connecticut.

One night over a few adult beverages, the topic of classic American literature came up.

I immediately opined that I thought the February 1990 edition of Playboy featuring Pamela Anderson was the pinnacle of American literature. All literary efforts past and present dim in comparison.

It was immediately evident to

me at the gasps that sucked all the air out of the room, and the evil glance that my lovely spouse shot at me, that the pause now occurring was the only thing that would be pregnant for a good long while in our household.

So in an attempt to get some... refinement and culture, I rushed out and picked up a copy of Moby Dick.

I mean after all, we were in a community that featured a living history center focused on whaling, I'm a hunter, and the book itself is about hunting. Perfect, right?

As I (pardon the pun) dove deeper into Moby Dick, I came to a shocking realization. All of us whose passions reside in outdoor pursuits have a little Captain Ahab in us. We all have our own white whales.

How so, you may ask? Well, each individual hunter has a particular goal that he or she may target, the pinnacle of their desired achievement, and yet for some reason they cannot attain it.

While opportunities may present themselves to do so, fate, karma or just plain bad luck always intervenes to foil their best laid plans.

What then is my mythical white whale you may ask? Well, for me, my crowning achievement would be harvesting a mature bull canvasback in all its regal splendor.

The canvasback is often called the king of the duck world. A

DUCK

continued on page 9

Hunting season is right around the corner!
Stop in and check out our selection of
Banks and Muddy Blinds



**NORTH COUNTRY
MARINE & MOTORSPORTS**

4034 Hwy 37 Bypass
Garrison, ND
(701) 463-2628

northcountrymarine.com



Take a break where
Lewis & Clark did.



STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA

Lewis & Clark
INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Open Monday - Saturday, 9-5

Corner of US 83 and ND 200A, Washburn, ND • 877.462.8535 • FortMandan.com



See us for Wild
Game Processing

Myers'
meats & specialties
est.1966

2452B 70th Ave
NW Parshall
743-4451

1 Cessna Drive
Garrison, ND
337-5498

www.myersmeats.com



HUNTING continued from page 5

McLean County to Waterford City to accept a new job. However, the fact the job allowed him to relocate to one of his favorite family hunting grounds was a huge selling point for him.

"It's awesome being out here," he said.

With plenty of hunting season left, Tate said he is still planning to get a bigger buck than Tagen this season.

In the coming years, the next hunting goal for the Bertolotto family is getting elk tags in Montana.

Tate said they are hoping they take up the mountain with their dad to have another memory in the hat for the family.

Hunting

For anyone just starting out in the sport or thinking about getting into hunting, the Bertolotto brothers both said to just enjoy the moment.

Tate said the trick to the sport is not to focus just on hunting – but on nature itself.



Tate Bertolotto poses with a buck he shot previous years hunting.

"Don't get down on yourself if you aren't having a lot of success," he said. "Just enjoy the moment."

Tagen agreed, encouraging

anyone who is considering the sport to "just try it."

"It takes some time and effort, but just get out there and enjoy it," Tagen said.

Totten Trail
BAR & GRILL
RESORT on legendary Lake Audubon!

Place your order while you're in the blind!

Online Ordering:
tottentrail.com

Restaurant, Sports Bar & Grill, On & Off Sale, Gas Station, Bait & Tackle, RV Sites & Great Fishing!

Hwy 83 N. • Lake Audubon • 701-337-2070
CLOSED MONDAY
 Kitchen Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
 Sunday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

THE FUTURE OF HUNTING DEPENDS ON OUR ACTIONS TODAY

Hunt for
TOMORROW

gf.nd.gov/hunt-for-tomorrow

NORTH Dakota | Game and Fish
 Be Legendary.



DUCK continued from page 7



main target of the early market gunners, the canvasback will forever be permanently engraved into the yore and legend of waterfowling.

However, it is for that very reason, along with some unusual nesting habits, that makes them a rare and difficult challenge.

We in North Dakota, who wish to hunt King Can, are very fortunate that we live here, right in the middle of their preferred nesting grounds, which usually means lots of canvasbacks around during duck season.

Despite that, in over a decade of trying, I have still managed to harvest only one canvasback, that one a juvenile, and it was taken in Wisconsin, not North Dakota.

As of yet I have still never successfully taken a North Dakota canvasback.

It seems like every year I get one chance and one chance alone at a fully mature male.

And each year, much like Captain Ahab, I manage to screw it up.

Now granted I have not lost a leg or sunk a boat in my quest yet, but in all honesty, the way things have been going, I can see it happening eventually.

And so, with the North Dakota waterfowl season once again upon us, I look forward to setting forth once more, on the journey to capture my own personal white whale, a beautiful bull canvasback, whom I have now dubbed Moby duck.

Who knows, this year could be the year, if the fates and the tides align right.

But whether it happens or not, the adventure and memories garnered will be well worth the journey.

And hopefully unlike Ahab's Pequod, my little vessel, and the brown dog who crews it, will arrive safely back in port, under the cottonwoods.

2022 North Dakota Deer Hunting Season in Review and Preview for 2023

BY: ETHYN WILLIAMS-CALVERT
ethyn@nordaknorth.com

The 2022 deer hunting season in North Dakota saw a total of 47,590 hunters, who harvested approximately 25,093 deer. The hunting conditions were less than ideal, with inclement weather ranging from high winds to blizzard conditions.

The North Dakota Department of Game and Fish issued 64,200 deer gun licenses, with an overall success rate of 53%.

- Antlered white-tailed deer: 43% success rate
- Antlerless white-tailed deer: 40% success rate
- Mule deer buck: 64% success rate
- Antlerless mule deer: 70% success rate

Specialized hunting licenses, such as muzzleloader and archery, also saw varied success rates of 45% and 34% respectively. Gratis license holders had a success rate of 43%.

According to Casey Anderson, wildlife chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the season's lower success rate was impacted significantly by deteriorating weather conditions. This included high winds and blizzard conditions, leading to lower-than-average temperatures throughout the season. The overall success rate of 53% fell short of the department's target of 70%.

Another concern last season was the detection of CWD in



several new hunting units. The disease influenced deer management strategies, leading to a more aggressive harvest strategy in certain areas, and the introduction of baiting restrictions in multiple units.

For the upcoming 2023 season, the department has issued 53,400 deer gun licenses, a decline of 10,800 from the previous year. This reduction comes in the wake of a brutal winter that lasted from November to April, affecting deer populations across the state.

- Reduction in various types of licenses, including Any Antlered and Any Antlerless.
- Increased surveillance for CWD, affecting deer management strategies.
- Baiting restrictions expanded to more units.

Quality deer habitat continues to decline, particularly in the eastern third of the state, due to loss of CRP grass cover. If cur-

rent trends continue, by 2026, North Dakota will have lost 85% of the once 3.4 million acres present in 2007.

The 2023 deer hunting season in North Dakota comes with both challenges and opportunities. Reduced license numbers and increased restrictions aim to balance hunting interest with conservation efforts. The Game and Fish Department remains committed to improving hunting conditions while tackling ongoing issues like habitat loss and disease management. Whether you're an experienced hunter or a novice, this season promises to be an interesting chapter in the ongoing story of deer hunting in North Dakota.

Season Dates

- Archery: Sept. 3, 2023 - Jan. 7, 2024
- Youth gun: Sept. 15-24, 2023
- Regular gun: Nov. 10-26, 2023
- Muzzleloader: Dec. 1-17, 2023

ZIEMANN continued from page 6

Teals.

She was going to try for a flying bird this time.

Nervously raises the gun but doesn't quite get it tucked into her shoulder.

Pop.

"Ouch."

She shakes her arm.

Marcus says there is time for another shot, but she just lets them go.

"I was definitely not holding the gun right," Piper said. "It hurt."

After that attempt she was done.

So, they packed it up and headed back towards the truck.

During the ride home they chatted about the hunt.

"I'm really proud of you," Marcus said. "And now, no duck is safe."

After all was said and done, Piper was happy with the hunt.

"I'm going to let my bruises heal," Piper said. "Then I'll go again."

Scott's Hardware
Where the coffee is always on!
Do it Best
801 Main Ave
Washburn
Phone: 462-3364 • Fax: 462-3264

get on target - hunting gear



Mossy Oak Camo Hoodie

starting at \$87.00

colors available: Shadow Grass
Blade and Break-up Infinity
sizes: XXS - 6XL
LT-6XLT



Mossy Oak Camo Pullover

\$78.00

colors available: Shadow Grass Blade
and Break-up Infinity
sizes: XXS - 6XLT

Mossy Oak Camo Full Zip

\$79.00

colors available:
Shadow Grass
Blade and Break-up
Infinity
sizes: XXS - 6XL
LT-6XLT

Neon Quarter Zip
Performance Pullover

\$44.00

Blaze Orange & Safety Green



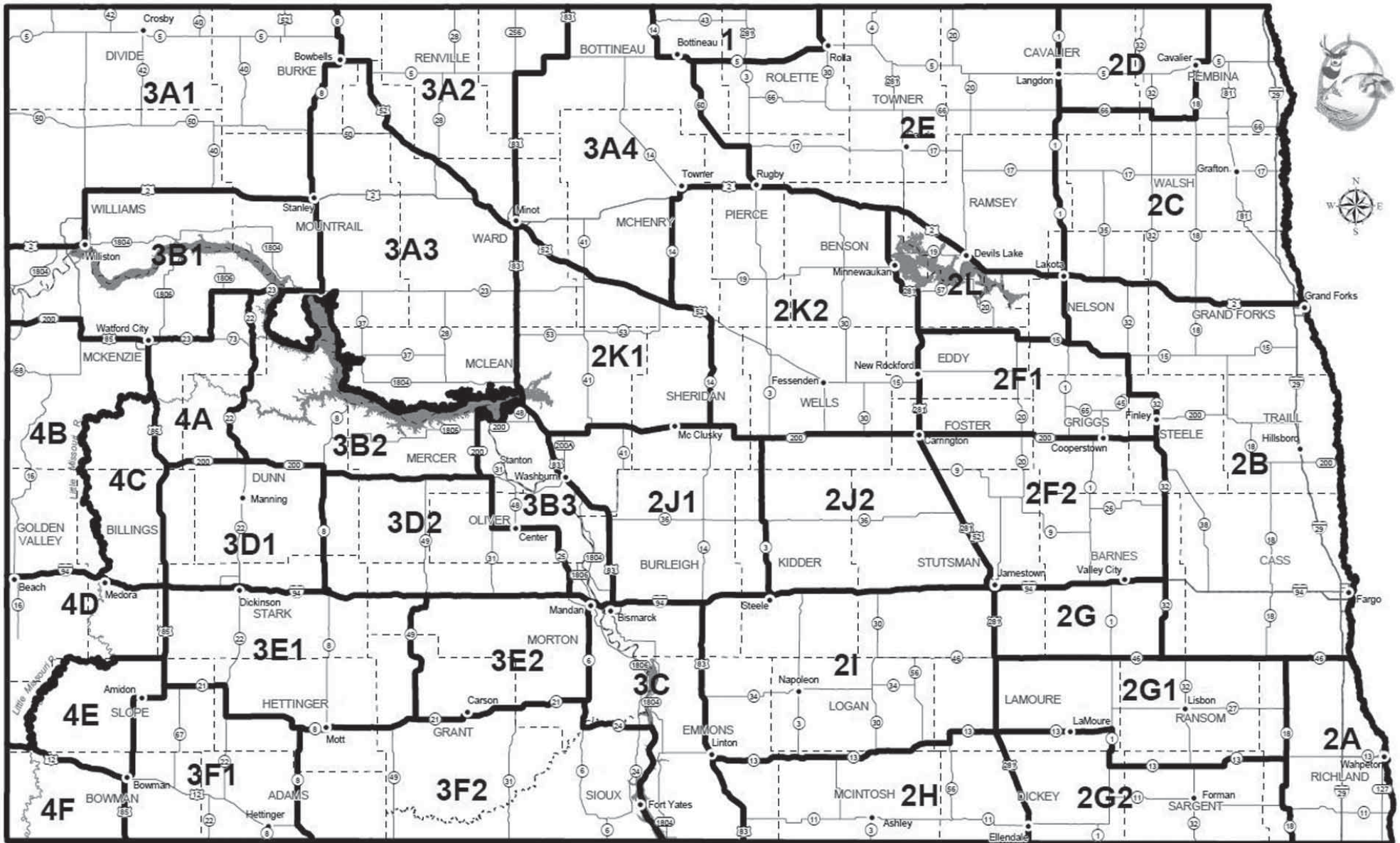
NORDAK NORTH
Promotional Products

1-800-658-3485
71 N. Main • Garrison • 463-2566



Deer Gun Hunting Units

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Deer Gun Hunting Units



All units are bounded by interstate highways, U.S. highways or North Dakota state highways as noted on the map, with the following exceptions:

Source: North Dakota Game & Fish Department 2019

Western half of boundary between units 2F1 and 2L – Eddy County No. 1 heading east from its junction with U.S. Highway 281 at Sheyenne to its junction with ND Highway 20.

Boundary between units 3A3 and 3B2 – North shore of Lake Sakakawea. Except for Mathews (deTrobriand) Island and Mallard Island; all islands are part of Unit 3B2. Mathews (deTrobriand) Island is part of Unit 3A3. Mallard Island is part of Unit 3B3.

Boundary between units 3B2 and 3B3 – South shore of Lake Sakakawea heading west from U.S. Highway 83 to a point on the shore directly north of where ND Highway 200 turns southward (west of Pick City), then south to ND Highway 200. Mallard Island is part of Unit 3B3.

Boundary between units 3F2 and 3C – The junction of ND Highway 6 and ND Highway 21 heading south on ND Highway 6 to the junction with ND Highway 24, then east on ND Highway 24 and continuing east to a point on the west shore of the Missouri River, then following the Missouri River shoreline south to the South Dakota border.

Boundary between units 4B and 4C – The Little Missouri River.

Boundary between units 4D and 4E – The northern Slope County line heading west from its junction with U.S. Highway 85 to the Little Missouri River, then south on the Little Missouri River to U.S. Highway 12.

Source: www.huntingseasonhq.com

Harbor Bar & Grill

"Well known for the 12oz steaks (handcut daily!)"

Well aged and specially seasoned prime rib, ribeye, New York steak & seafood served on **Thursdays - Saturdays**. Goes hand in hand with some also well known jalapeno poppers which are made fresh everyday.

Including famous prime rib sandwiches and hamburgers as well as made from scratch soups & desserts with a flare of German-Russian dishes.

From a very small tavern to a well traveled steakhouse, many come from all directions. Our cozy private dining rooms are perfect for family, anniversaries, birthdays, meetings and private getaways. With talk of an additional 3 season private patio in the works, there is a potential for future large bike runs, benefits, special outdoor fish fries, crawfish boils, live bands and auctions. Kid friendly during the day, our fantastic servers can shake up a great beverage of your choice.

8 gaming machines • TVs • dart machines
"Great location with surrounding hunting, fishing and scenery."

Coleharbor, ND

POSTED
PRIVATE PROPERTY
HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING OR TRESPASSING FOR ANY PURPOSE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED
YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS HERE

12" x 18" weatherproof polymetal, personalized with your name and address in made-to-last vinyl lettering.

\$ 25⁹⁹ ea.

NORDAK NORTH
Promotional Products

1-800-658-3485 or 463-2566

A Hunter's Sunset

BY DON WINTER
don@nordaknorth.com

During my life in the natural resources field one of my greatest pleasures was getting the opportunity to introduce people to the sport of hunting or the great outdoors in general.

I always took pride in the variety of people from different walks of life that I was able to share the wonders of nature with. Young people, city folks, the mentally and physically handicapped and Minnesotans; I always tried to live by the motto "no challenge too great" when it came to getting people out of doors and back to their roots.

However, I recently took on a challenge that may be too big even for me.

This chap, who likes to be referred to as the "Woodstock Savage," told me repeatedly before the first time that we ventured onto the windswept prairie that he had grown up on a farm in Minnesota.

After our first outing I came to realize that "the Farm" must be the name of an exclusive gated community located somewhere between Chanhassen and Minnetonka, and that this poor soul's outdoor knowledge was sorely lacking.

I realized that it would take all of my considerable skill and patience to bring him up to speed.

I started Savage off in the normal fashion, with a trip to the shooting range.

I prefer this routine, as it gives me an opportunity to analyze the firearm safety knowledge and shooting ability of my pupil.

For example, if a person you haven't hunted with before tries to whistle Dixie by blowing into the barrel of their loaded shotgun you probably want to exercise extreme caution when heading out into the field with them, even worse is the crack shot who hits everything that they point their gun at, these are people to avoid at all cost, because there is nothing worse than a hunting buddy that consistently out shoots you.

We started off with some clay pigeons, and I was a vblittle nervous about my battered old shotgun. I figured seeing as how ol' Woodstock obviously hails from an exclusive upscale community he probably shoots an upper end Beretta or maybe even a Purdey. Imagine my surprise when the gun he pulled out of his case was made completely of wood with a cork stuck in the barrel.

Woodstock looked over at where I was getting ready and his mouth gaped open in awe, "I've never seen a gun without a cork before" he said. "Would you mind trading so I could try it?"

Being the good sport that I am I agreed, Woodstock quickly got

the hang of utilizing gun powder as a propellant and in the end shot quite well.

I, however, didn't fare as well. Have you ever tried to hit a moving target when you only have two feet of string tied to the cork on your popgun? It caused me to miss the first 19 birds in a row before one finally broke coming off the thrower. "That was a hit," I exclaimed.

The Savage was noticeably excited about his new-found skill with modern weaponry, and constantly gloated about "how many more birds he had hit than I had."

A few weeks later I felt that Woodstock was ready to venture into the great outdoors so we headed out to some public land near Washburn.

As we traversed a stream that travelled through a rocky coulee, I saw Woodstock intently studying a spot where a raccoon had been foraging. "Look at all the deer tracks there" he said, "they must cross here, I'll have to come back with my bow and shoot me a trophy."

I didn't have the heart to tell him that it would be a long



wait; we hadn't taken two more steps when a cow lowed in the distance.

"Wolves," Woodstock said, "Sounds like they are getting ready to attack, man I was talking to this grizzled rancher and his cute little daughter the other day and he was telling me all sorts of things about wolves."

I tried to explain to Woodstock that grizzled ranchers were like the internet, a wealth of information as long as you don't believe

everything that comes from them.

As we were heading out that night, the Savage looked up at a sky painted vivid pastel by a setting sun. "Now there's a hunter's sunset if I ever saw one" he said. I glanced over at him in shock; even though I had come close to giving up, perhaps there is hope for ol' Woodstock yet.

Heck, maybe for our next trip I'll even take him out under the cottonwoods.

Located on Lake Sakakawea's North Shore! 1/2 South of Garrison, ND on County Rd 15




BAYSIDE PROPERTY RENTALS

BUILT SPECIFICALLY FOR HUNTERS & FISHERMEN!





- Very Clean Lodging, Exceptional Kitchens, Bathrooms, Living Rooms, Bedrooms.
- Laundry, A/C & Heat. Flat Screen TVs, Coffee, Dishwasher & Stove.
- Door Front Parking, Boat Parking, Outside Electric Plug-ins.

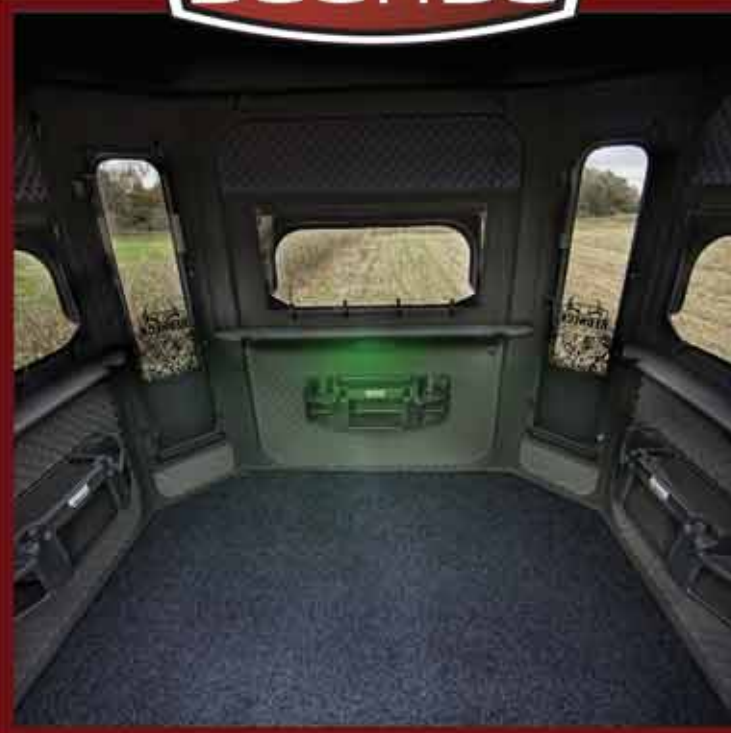
Call (701) 220-7477 for Daily & Weekly Rates!

GAS & CONVENIENCE
UNDERWOOD, NORTH DAKOTA


"The Best Hunting Blinds On The Planet"



TRY A REDNECK

At Redneck, we manufacture a wide variety of products for the outdoor industry. Be assured that despite our unique name, there is nothing Redneck about our product as we strive to provide high quality, unique products that are designed for hunters, by hunters.

★★★ 25 Year Warranty ★★★



FIBERGLASS BLINDS | HAY BALE BLINDS | FEEDERS | HUNTING CHAIRS | HUNTING ACCESSORIES

Hauser's Farm Supply
12019 HWY 52 S,
Minot, ND 58701
701-624-5310

www.RedneckBlinds.com 