

OUTDOORS

CALL OF THE WILD

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community who have a unique hunting, fishing or outdoors tale.
Call the Journal at 285-7411

FINDING ITS BALANCE



Although it almost slipped a few times, a ruffed grouse finds its balance in a crab apple tree this week to feed off the tree's fruit. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website, with the coming of winter, a series of comb-like projections grow on the sides of grouses' toes to provide better support on snow and ice-covered branches while feeding on buds.

STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Top 10 list of Minnesota hunting violations

DNR STAFF REPORT

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has released a list of the top 10 hunting-related violations in 2012.

Most citations and warnings were written for trespass. According to the DNR, a person may not enter legally posted land or agricultural land for outdoor recreation purposes without permission.

Other common violations include not having a hunting license in possession, or none at all; having a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, failure to tag an animal upon harvest and not wearing the required amount of blaze orange.

- Violation — No. of citations/warnings in 2012**
1. Trespass — 337
 2. License/registration/permit not in possession/displayed — 245
 3. No valid license/registration/permit — 239
 4. Hunting over bait — 225
 5. Transporting un-cased/loaded firearm in a motor vehicle — 222
 6. Unplugged shotgun — 161
 7. No blaze orange — 139
 8. Closed season (take/possession) — 126
 9. Untagged (deer, fur, traps, nets) — 124
 10. No federal waterfowl stamps — 122

"Only a small percentage of Minnesota hunters run afoul of the law," explained Ken Soring, DNR Enforcement Division director, "a majority of hunters in our state abide by wildlife rules and regulations."

The 2013 Minnesota Hunting & Trapping Regulations Handbook is available online http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/r/p/regulations/hunting/2013/full_regs.pdf#view=fit&page-mode=bookmarks or can be obtained from any hunting and fishing license vendor, as well as many outdoor retailers.

The DNR's mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. A major part of that mission involves monitoring hunters to ensure they hunt safely, ethically and abide by the state's wildlife laws and regulations.

With 24 of 155 conservation officer field stations vacant this becomes an overwhelming job. These officers spend endless hours hiking through the woods and traveling rural roads attempting to protect and preserve Minnesota's natural resources.

Hunters are also encouraged to be on the lookout for wildlife violations and report such violations to the Turn In Poachers (TIP) hotline at 800-652-9093. Cell phone users can dial #TIP. Informants can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward.

CCM accepting applications for 2014

DNR STAFF REPORT

Young adults, ages 18 to 25, are encouraged to apply for one of 160 positions available with Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa.

Conservation Corps is currently accepting applications for AmeriCorps field crew leader and member positions for the 2014 program year. Positions are available statewide, including northern, central and southern Minnesota,

as well as central Iowa. Priority application deadline is Dec. 4.

All projects are completed on public land in cooperation with nonprofit organizations and government agencies, such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. These opportunities provide technical field experience and professional certifications for future natural resource careers. Many DNR employees got their start in natural resources with the Conservation Corps (formerly MCC), where they

learned a strong work ethic and a first-hand appreciation of the environment.

Corps members receive on-the-job training in natural resource management and put those skills into practice working on habitat restoration projects throughout the Midwest. Typical project work includes exotic species management, prairie and oak-savanna restoration, stream bank stabilization, trail building and maintenance, prescribed burning and wildland fire suppression.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH ANNOUNCED AT INDUS

The following students have been named "Students of the Month" at Indus School based on their exemplary behavior and attitudes, academic achievement or special achievement, and uniqueness. Four students are chosen from these groupings on a monthly basis: Grades 10-12, Grades 7-9, Grades 4-6, Grades K-3.

Students recognized in November for September in Elementary are:



Tessa Hasbargen

Third grader Tessa Hasbargen. Tessa's nomination included the following comments: "I am recommending Tessa for her excellent work ethic, positive attitude and friendliness toward classmates...she has been an excellent role model for peers at all grade levels!"



Colyn Peterson

Second grader Colyn Peterson. Colyn's teacher reports that he is "a very nice and kind boy, who is always well behaved. He also is trying very hard in classes!"

High School Students of the Month are:



Hayley Gaetzke

Eighth grader Hayley Gaetzke. Hayley's nomination included the following comments: "Hayley is doing very well academically, as well as showing consistently positive behavior and is involved in extracurricular sports and band."



Zackory Korpi

Eighth grader Zackory Korpi. Zach's nomination stated: "For a student that is new to our school this year, Zach fits in very well. He is doing well in all classes and comes to each class prepared to learn."



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