

OUTDOORS

Trap team to benefit from indoor simulator

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Shotguns were fired in Backus Community Center Wednesday, but no bullets ever left the barrels.

The International Falls School Trap Team got a hands-on experience with a new indoor trap shooting simulator that will allow members to practice skills and techniques indoors.

“The school team is very excited to get this simulator,” said Eric Norstad, head coach of the team that has 40-50 members.

Tom Ridge, owner of the DryFire Target Simulator company, traveled to Borderland from Dallas, Texas, to educate the group on the system. The demonstration also drew two trap shooting coaches from southern Minnesota.

“You guys are some of the first to do it,” Ridge said of using the simulator that was developed 13 years ago. “I expect it to get more popular as more people like your club begin to use it.”

The device starts with a pattern of each shooter’s gun and transfers the information into software. When the shooters use the simulator with their own gun, the software tracks where they shoot and will adjust to their

style. It tells them where their shot pattern was in relation to the target.

“It’s important that shooters know where their gun shoots and to adjust for that,” Norstad said.

Ridge said the simulator saves trap shooters money on ammunition and allows them unlimited practice time with their own shotgun during any season.

“When the snow is flying and it’s cold, you guys aren’t going to be out practicing in the cold,” Ridge told the group. “With this, you can practice in a 70-degree room with your own gun and that is key...If we gave you a gun to use with it, it’s worthless. You need to learn how to shoot your own gun.”

Ridge said trap shooting is difficult to learn because shooters don’t get feedback other sports get. With the simulator, however, the software shows shooters how much they missed a target and allows them to perfect their shot.

“This is a powerful training tool,” Ridge said. “This system will help you master the game of perfection.”

The trap team will host a pulled pork supper fundraiser from 5-7 p.m. Monday at the Elks Lodge. Cooking will be by members of the U.S. Border Patrol.



Team coach Rich Magel aims at a laser generated by the DryFire Target Simulator at Backus Community Center Wednesday. The simulator, purchased with donations by the trap club, will allow shooters to practice and perfect their skills indoors.



Tom Ridge, owner of the DryFire Target Simulator company, traveled to Borderland from Dallas, Texas, this week to educate the Falls Trap Team on the DryFire system.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
**2015 Sanitary Sewer System
Kabetogama Township, Minnesota
SEH No. KABET 114902 / 119468**

Notice is hereby given that sealed Bids will be received by Lake Kabetogama Township until 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 17, 2014, at the office of SEH located at 21 NE 5th Street, Suite 200, Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2601, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud, for the furnishing of all labor and material for the construction of 2014 Sanitary Sewer Collection and Treatment. Major components of the Work include:

Installation of a new STEP collection system.

Bids shall be on the form provided for that purpose and according to the Bidding Requirements prepared by Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., dated October 16, 2014.

Digital copies of the Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.sehinc.com> for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the BIDDING DOCUMENTS link and by entering eBid-Doc™ Number 3553770 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com.

Paper copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from Docu-net Corp. located at 2435 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441 (763.475.9600) for a fee of \$90.

Bids will only be accepted from Contractors who purchase Bidding Documents as noted above.

Bid security in the amount of five (5) percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

This Work shall be subject to Federal Davis Bacon and state prevailing wages. Use of American Iron and Steel requirements will be a part of this project.

Bids shall be directed to the Owner, securely sealed and endorsed upon the outside wrapper, "BID FOR 2015 SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM, KABETO GAMA TOWNSHIP, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MN, KABET 114902."

Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the best interests of the Owner.

Mary Manninen
Clerk
Kabetogama Township

The Journal
October 11th, 18th, 25th
November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
December 6th & 13th, 2014

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
**2015 Wastewater Treatment and Dispersal
Kabetogama Township, Minnesota
SEH No. KABET 114902 / 119468**

Notice is hereby given that sealed Bids will be received by Lake Kabetogama Township until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 17, 2014, at the office of SEH located at 21 NE 5th Street, Suite 200, Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2601, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud, for the furnishing of all labor and material for the construction of 2015 Wastewater Treatment Dispersal. Major components of the Work include:

Construction of new wastewater pretreatment and mound/at-grade dispersal systems.

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Bids will only be accepted from Contractors who purchase Bidding Documents as noted above.

Bid security in the amount of five (5) percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

This Work shall be subject to Federal Davis Bacon and state prevailing wages. Use of American Iron and Steel requirements will be a part of this project.

Bids shall be directed to the Owner, securely sealed and endorsed upon the outside wrapper, "BID FOR 2015 WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND DISPERSAL, KABETO GAMA TOWNSHIP, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MN, KABET 114902."

Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the best interests of the Owner.

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WEED OF THE MONTH

Brown, meadow, and diffuse knapweeds

Two species found in Koochiching County

BY EMILIE JUSTEN
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

December’s Weed of the Month is not one, but three species of knapweed: brown knapweed (*Centaurea jacea*), meadow knapweed (*C. x moncktonii*), and diffuse knapweed (*C. diffusa*).

All three species are native to Eurasia, and it’s thought they were introduced to western North America for forage. In Minnesota, infestations of meadow knapweed have been reported in St. Louis and Koochiching counties, brown knapweed has been reported in Koochiching County, and diffuse knapweed has been found in Duluth.

Several characteristics of these knapweed species have helped them thrive and become a threat to Minnesota. They outcompete pasture grasses and native plants, leading to large bare patches of soil that is more susceptible to erosion and water runoff. Once established, the knapweeds reduce hay quality and pasture productivity. The plants can also



Meadow knapweed flower with bright pink petals. Meadow and brown knapweed have been found in Koochiching County.

hybridize between species, which makes identification difficult and increases the risk for an aggressive plant that can invade many soil types and growing conditions.

Knapweeds can be biennial or perennial. They reproduce primarily by seed, which can be spread with infested hay, on equipment,

or by wind and water movement. The flowers are tight clusters of individual flowers called florets. The flower color ranges from pink to white. The plants produce a rosette of leaves, which then sends up a flowering stalk in the summer.

To prevent the knapweeds from further spreading throughout Minnesota, sev-

eral management strategies are available.

■ Make sure to clean equipment, vehicles, and footwear after being in a knapweed infested area.

■ A combination of hand-pulling and digging is an option for small infestations. Seedlings are tap-rooted and can be hand-pulled; however, the large taproots must be removed or the plant will regenerate from the root.

■ Herbicides are a very effective management tool for meadow knapweed. For specific herbicide recommendations, contact your University of Minnesota Regional Extension Educator.

■ Mowing does not control meadow knapweed and the mower may spread seed.

■ All infestations must be monitored and treated until the seedbank is depleted.

To report infestations of these species of knapweeds or any other noxious weeds on the eradicate list, please use the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System at www.eddmaps.org.



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