

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



Brian McBride shared another photo of the bucks he's been seeing from the cab of his pickup. He corrects the information about the buck published in Saturday's edition, noting the pictures are being taken near his cabin on Rainy Lake.

Bucks-only management strategy applies to archers, youth, disabled hunters

DNR STAFF REPORT

As archery hunters prepare for the Sept. 13 Minnesota archery season opener, the Department of Natural Resources reminds them to become familiar with this year's hunting regulations. One change in particular may be a surprise to archery hunters, youth hunters, and hunters with disability permits: a bucks-only management strategy may apply to them as well. In a bucks-only harvest area, all hunters may harvest one legal buck — no

matter the hunter or the weapon used. In a lottery area, archers, youth and disabled hunters may harvest an antlerless deer without being drawn for an antlerless permit. "It's important that hunters review the hunting regulations handbook each year for changes," said DNR Conservation Officer Sarah Sindelir. "Hunters play an important role in deer management, so as the state's strategy changes, so do the rules for harvest." This season's conserva-

tive approach to harvest is intended to protect more antlerless deer, which will likely reduce the statewide harvest and allow the population to rebound. Hunters should consult the 2014 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook and deer season/area map for additional information. The handbook can be acquired at most electronic licensing agents, on the Minnesota DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/hunting/deer, or at a local Minnesota DNR office.

September weed of the month: Oriental bittersweet

BY EMILIE JUSTEN
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Editor's note: This is part of a series of regular columns by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on the state's noxious weeds.

September's weed of the month, Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), is a woody vine with colorful red fruit. It was brought to North America from the Asia and used as an ornamental plant.

The attractive vines have been used for wreath decorations and in floral decorations; unfortunately, the plant has escaped cultivation and has become invasive in residential and natural areas in Minnesota.

Oriental bittersweet spreads by several means. The persistent red fruit is consumed by birds, which spread the seed to uninfested areas. People trained to look for Oriental bittersweet may look for places where birds perch. The areas beneath the perches may have Oriental bittersweet seedlings, juvenile vines, or mature woody vines and would be a place to target control efforts. Humans also spread Oriental bittersweet infestations by physically moving the plants. Oriental bittersweet was commonly propagated and sold in Minnesota through nurseries and retail garden centers before 2010. Its use in floral arrangements and wreaths also increased its spread.

Despite its ornamental characteristics, Oriental bittersweet is an ecological



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fall fruit of Oriental bittersweet.

threat to forests, grasslands, and parks in Minnesota. The vines twine around trees, girdling them in a snake-like fashion. Though it prefers forest edges and sunlight, Oriental bittersweet can grow in forest understories, eventually reaching forest canopies, shading the trees and understory and preventing native plant species from flourishing. Infestations can become so thick that wildlife, such as deer, can have difficulty navigating through wooded areas filled with Oriental bittersweet.

Oriental bittersweet has identification characteristics to help distinguish it from other woody vines. The mature fruit is a red berry with a yellow capsule. The berries are attached along the stem where the leaves meet the stem. This should not be confused by American bittersweet which has red berries with orange capsules. Additionally, dense infestations of Oriental bittersweet will give a wooded area a messy, chaotic look.

As a target weed on Minnesota's Noxious Weed Eradicate List, it's required by law that all above- and below-ground plant parts must be destroyed. Recommended management practices for Oriental bittersweet include the following:

- Do not collect and use the fruiting stems for ornamental purposes. Do not plant Oriental bittersweet or propagate any of its plant parts.
- Foliar or cut stump herbicide applications can be effective. For specific herbicide recommendations, contact your University of Minnesota Regional Extension Educator.
- All management practices for Oriental bittersweet should include monitoring and treating repeatedly until the seedbank is depleted.
- To report infestations of Oriental bittersweet or any other noxious weeds on the eradicate list, please notify MDA by email at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us, or voicemail at 1-888-545-6684 (toll-free).

Baby turtles hatching, adults getting ready for winter

Help turtles safely cross roads

DNR STAFF REPORT

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking people to share the road with hatchling and adult turtles this fall.

Turtles crossing roads in late-August and September are often moving to familiar overwintering locations. Unfortunately, many hatchling and adult turtles' have to cross roads to get to wintering areas.

"Roadway mortality is believed to be a major factor in turtle population declines throughout the United States," said Christopher Smith, DNR nongame wildlife specialist.

In Minnesota, where all turtles are mainly aquatic, overland journeys usually

occur: in connection with seasonal movements between different wetland habitats; during the annual early summer nesting migration of egg laden females; or when newly hatched youngsters seek out the backwaters and ponds that will serve as their permanent home. Turtles can travel many miles during a single year, and may even be found far from water; this is no need for concern.

Giving turtles a hand

Here are some tips to help turtles across roads:

- Avoid danger. Simply pulling off the road and turning on hazard lights may alert other drivers to slow down. Be aware of surroundings and traffic.
- Avoid excessive handling. While wanting to inspect turtles closely is understandable, excessive handling can disrupt normal behavior. Prolonged examination of turtles should therefore be limited to only one or two individuals of each species.
- Allow unassisted road crossings. When turtles can safely cross roads unaided

due to a lack of oncoming traffic allow them to do so. Observe from a distance and avoid rapid movements, as doing otherwise will often cause turtles to change direction, stop, or seek shelter within their shells.

- Handle turtles gently. If necessary to pick them up, all turtles except Snappers and Softshells should be grasped gently along the shell edge near the mid-point of the body. Many turtles empty their bladder when lifted off the ground, so be careful not to drop them if they should suddenly expel water.
- Maintain direction of travel. Always move turtles in the same direction they were traveling in when encountered. Turtles should always be moved across roadways in as direct a line as possible.


Find more information at www.dnr.state.mn.us/reptiles_amphibians/helping-turtles-roads.html.

Check out the DNR's turtle poster: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/turtle_poster.pdf.

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Re-Elect Rob Ecklund

for District 4 County Commissioner



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Presentation Includes a Legislative Update and Question & Answer Period