



JANUARY 2012

walleye Lines



Promoting conservation, sportsmanship and education in respect to walleye fishing.

FM Walleyes Unlimited, Inc. is pleased to announce that its January Meeting will feature a Panel of Experts from the Brainerd, MN Area consisting of:

FM WALLEYES FOUNDING FATHER: **Gary Hasse** was one of the brain childs behind the formation of our Hall of Fame club. Gary currently lives in the Brainerd area and is very knowledgeable of the local walleye fishing scene. Gary will MC the Brainerd panel of experts.

BOAT RIGGING & ELECTRONICS EXPERTS: **Jim Wentworth** and **Andy Kratochvil** - Fish Lectronics of Nisswa - Fish Lectronics has been rigging and repairing boating equipment such as sonars, GPS systems, trolling motors, boat wiring, pumps, trailer lights, and charging systems for nearly 40 years. The business was started by Jim Wentworth and Andy Kratochvil took over in 2009. An avid fisherman and electronic guru himself, Andy has brought his passion for fishing and boating to the business.

PROP EXPERT: **"The Propman" Ricky Besmehn** owner of Brainerd Propeller, Inc - They have been in business since 2000 and currently are one of only two prop shops in Minnesota to be nationally certified in stainless steel and aluminum prop repair. They repair over 2,000 props a year and are well known for helping out walleye boat owners of all sorts to get the most out of their boats.

BRAINERD AREA GUIDES: **Legendary Guide, Marv Koep** - He and his wife owned Koeps Nisswa Bait and founded the Nisswa Guides League. It was home base for Hall of Fame guides such as the Al & Ron Lindner and Gary Roach. Koeps Nisswa Bait was synonymous with Brainerd Area walleye fishing and was the hot bed of walleye fishing innovations for over 30 years. Koeps was the second repair shop ever authorized for Lowrance.

Herschel (Butch) Blasing - In 1995 Butch joined S&W Guide Service located between Brainerd and Nisswa. For several years, Butch would average 120-130 guided fishing trips a summer, but because of grandchildren and realizing family is more important than guide trips, has cut back to about 70-80 trips a summer now. This past summer Butch had the pleasure to fish with "The General" Coach Bobby Knight (anyone have an extra Warrior boat seat, Butch is missing one).

The community is invited to this FREE event which will take place at the Kelly Inn on Main Ave & I-29 in Fargo, ND on Thursday, January 19th. The doors will open at 6:00 and the meeting will begin at 7:00.

For more information contact Scott Brewer at (701) 388-4408
or Kyle Agre at (701) 492-1242

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2011 MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE
FEBRUARY 28TH, 2012

January 19th, 2012
General Meeting
PANEL OF EXPERTS FROM BRAINERD AREA

Thursday, January 26th
Lake Winnipeg Fishing Seminar
(see details on pg 8)

Tuesday, February 7th
Board Meeting - Kelly Inn Fargo
6 pm - 7 pm
All Members are welcome

Thursday, February 26th
Annual Membership Meeting and
Board of Director's Elections

Tuesday, March 1st
Board Meeting

Thursday, March 15th
General Meeting
"Anglers Night"

March 16th - 18th
Lake Winnipeg Ice Fishing Excursion

SAVE THE DATE
2012 Dinner Dance
Saturday, February 4th, 2012
Kelly Inn - Fargo, ND
(more details on pg 3)

ALL MEETINGS AT 7PM AT THE
KELLY INN OF FARGO, UNLESS
OTHERWISE STATED.

President's Comments...

Wishing all of you the best in 2012!

What a difference a year can make. Last year at this time we had two blizzards in a row , one in Christmas Day with 20" of snow and one on New Year's Day. This year on Christmas Day it's 40deg and no snow, New Year's Day also no snow and in the 30's.

The December seminar, Angler's Nite "On Ice" with Tony Roach was titled "Trolling on Ice". If you missed this event you missed out on a very interesting event. A VERY BIG THANK YOU GOES TO TONY

If you do not have your Dinner Dance tickets yet there are still tickets available. Please contact Tami Stillwell (See the poster in the Walleye Lines for more details) Remember this event is on Feb 4th, 2012.

I hope to see everyone at the January meeting, featuring a panel of expert fisherman, riggers and repair experts from the Brainerd Area. Please bring a friend to this great event!!

See you on the hard water.

Gary Sawageau President

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Doors open @ 5pm

Dinner @ 6pm

Dance from 8pm to 12am

Kelly Inn on Main

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Tickets are \$25 each

Contacts:

Tami Stillwell 701 367 6741 or stillwelltami@ideaone.net

Scot Johnson 701 238 0967

Sahr's Sudden Service, Ron Sahr 293-1918

November 18, 2011

Governor Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

We applaud your leadership in convening a high-level group to address the very real threat Asian carp pose to the future health and recreational use of Minnesota's waters. We greatly appreciate the work that went into the September and November reports that form your "Asian Carp Action Plan."

We believe that your actions to date reflect the urgency of this threat, and applaud the clarity of the Action Plans in recommending the specific actions necessary for preventing the introduction and spread of Asian carp to Minnesota waters. As your administration moves forward, we urge you to update these reports in order to establish and add clear goals and objectives for Minnesota's policy to control and manage Asian carp. We believe the **goal** of your administration should be: **To prevent the introduction and spread of Asian carp in Minnesota waters.**

The following three objectives should accompany these goals in priority order:

- Prevent the spread of Asian carp above the Ford Dam (Lock #1);
- Significantly reduce the risk of Asian carp passage above Lock #19 (Keokuk, IA); and
- Monitor and control carp populations if established between Lock #19 and Lock #1

The actions recommended in the reports are consistent with this goal and these objectives. We fully support the recommended actions in the task force report and strongly urge you to prioritize and implement the actions identified in the task force report immediately. However, the task force report does not go far enough to protect Minnesota's waters. The ability to temporarily and permanently close the locks at St. Anthony Falls and the Ford dam need to be of the highest priority in any final Asian carp plan. As clearly explained by MN DNR in Appendix E of the task force report:

"Lock and Dam #1 (Ford Dam) and Upper St. Anthony Falls are the only locations on the commercially navigable portion of the Upper Mississippi River in Minnesota where it is possible to establish 100% effective barriers to fish passage."

Establishing these barriers is truly critical to any comprehensive approach to stopping Asian carp and protecting Minnesota's waters. We further agree with the conclusions of the MN DNR described in Appendix E that all efforts should be made to close these upper locks if Asian carp are detected upstream. Of critical importance is the ability to close the most upstream locks. Emergency closure authorization is needed prior to the opening of the locks in spring, 2012. Our organizations and our members are willing to assist your administration in working closely with Minnesota's congressional delegation to provide this authority for the Army Corps of Engineers.

We also support an analysis of the social and economic benefits and costs of a permanent lock closure. Based on past experiences, we recommend that the state initiate and fund an independent study to be completed by the opening of the locks in 2012, rather than rely on a lengthy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study. A state sponsored study is far more likely to be completed in a timely fashion.

The undersigned organizations represent many thousands of citizens deeply interested in the future health and recreational use of Minnesota's waters. As you move forward with implementation of the significant actions needed to control the introduction and spread of Asian carp in Minnesota you can count on our support. We know that persistence and determination will be needed to achieve success. We look forward to working with you and your staff on the details as this long-term campaign is implemented.

Sincerely,

Vern Wagner, Vice President
Anglers for Habitat

Darrell Gerber, Program Coordinator
Clean Water Action Midwest Office

Whitney Clark, Executive Director
Friends of the Mississippi River

Scott Strand, Executive Director
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Gary Botzek, Executive Director
Minnesota Conservation Federation

John P. Lenczewski, Executive Director
Minnesota Trout Unlimited

Katie Nyberg, Executive Director
Mississippi River Fund

Don Arnosti, Policy Director
Audubon Minnesota

Lance Ness, President
Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance

Larry Dolphin, President, MN Division,
Izaak Walton League

Barbara Halbakken Fischburg
Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations Collaborative

Jeff Forester, Executive Director
Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners Coalition

Lois Sinn Lindquist, Executive Director
Minnesota Waters

Marc Smith, Senior Policy Manager
National Wildlife Federation

ASIAN CARP – *A threat to all of Minnesota's waters*

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES COALITION CALL TO ACTION

Minnesota's famed sky blue waters are facing an enormous threat. With more than 10,000 lakes and 92,000 miles of rivers and streams, Minnesota's waters support an enormous and essential fishing, boating, outdoor recreation and real estate economy, not to mention their positive impacts on the quality of life enjoyed by all Minnesotans.

Asian Carp includes four non-native species of fish that are aggressive invaders and voracious eaters. They grow faster and compete better than native fish populations, toppling the food chain and taking over aquatic habitat. Silver Carp, one of the four Asian species, can jump up to 10 feet in the air, potentially injuring recreational boaters. All four species have been found in the Mississippi River downstream from Iowa; their populations are growing and they are moving upstream.

We must stop Asian Carp's upstream progress before it is too late.

Recent testing identified Asian Carp DNA in the Mississippi River above Coon Rapids Dam and near the Ford Dam and on the St. Croix River below St. Croix Falls. Additional testing is underway, but immediate action is needed to protect Minnesota's waters and the Great Lakes.

The Mississippi River has a multitude of jurisdictions that govern its use and management, and thousands of river users and stakeholders. Federal, State, and Local governments need to work together to quickly plan, advocate for and implement responsible action steps to prevent the destruction of fish habitat in Minnesota's lakes and rivers from invasive Asian carp.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coalition

The AIS Coalition is a group of NGOs, from Minnesota and other Great Lakes state, that is collaborating to bring attention to the Asian Carp issue, educate the public and elected officials about impacts to our environment and economy, and advocate for quick and strategic initiatives to slow and/or stop the invasion.

Asian Carp (AIS) Coalition Members:

Anglers for Habitat • Audubon Minnesota – National Audubon Society • Clean Water Action • Fish and Wildlife Alliance • FM Walleye • Friends of the Mississippi River • Izaak Walton League of Minnesota • Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy • Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations • Minnesota Conservation Federation • Minnesota Seasonal Recreation Property Owners • Minnesota Trout Unlimited, Minnesota Waters • Mississippi River Fund, National Parks Conservation Association • National Wildlife Federation • New Ulm Area Sport Fisherman • St. Croix River Association

AIS Coalition Call to Action

We urge our federal, state and local governments to take immediate action and find a permanent solution to prevent the spread of Asian carp into Minnesota's rivers and lakes.

We recommend the following framework for priority action steps:

1. STOP spread of Asian Carp upstream from Lock #1		
Immediate Action	Install deterrent technologies at Lock #1 and combine with modified lock operations	Complete before 2012 navigation season commences
Short-Term Action	Secure congressional authorization and direction for the emergency, temporary closure of Lock #1 and the Upper St. Anthony Locks.	Complete by Sep 2012
Long-Term Action	Restore the historic permanent fish barrier at the St. Anthony Falls Upper Lock.	Complete by Sep 2014
2. SLOW Asian carp passage above Lock #19 a Keokuk, Iowa		
Immediate Action	Convene a multi-state task force to coordinate a regional and federal response to the spread of Asian Carp and other aquatic invasive species in the Upper Midwest.	Convene by Feb 2012
Short-Term Action	Install deterrent technologies at Lock #19 and combine with modified lock operations	Complete before 2012 navigation season commences
Medium-Term Action	Install redundant deterrents at strategic locations in Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin	Begin implementation by Oct 2012
3. CONTROL established Asian Carp populations upstream of Lock #19		
Immediate Action	Monitor for Asian Carp eDNA and live fish in the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers	Ongoing
Short-Term Action	Research safe methods for eradicating Asian Carp from Minnesota's waters	Identify recommended strategies by April 2012
Medium-Term Action	Implement safe methods for eradicating Asian Carp from Minnesota's waters	Begin implementation by June 2012

Coalition Contact Information:

Gary Botzek, Minnesota Conservation Federation, 651-283-4511, gary@capitolconnections.com
 Barry Chouinard, FM Walleye, 218-790-4762, bchouinard@magnumlog.com
 Jeff Forester, Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners, jeff@msrpo.org
 Darrell Gerber, Clean Water Action, 612-802-5372, dgerber@cleanwater.org
 Irene Jones, Friends of the Mississippi River, 651-222-2193 x11, ijones@fmr.org
 Jason Keuster, New Ulm Area Sport Fishemank 507-381-2941, JR@newulmtel.net
 John Lenczewski, Trout Unlimited, 612-6701629, jlenczewski@comcast.net
 Lance Ness, Anglers for Habitat, 763-438-7811, nesslk@juno.com
 Marc Smith, National Wildlife Federation, 734-255-5413, msmith@nwf.org
 Henry Van Offelen, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, 218-849-5270, hvanoffelen@mncenter.org



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS FOR BIG WATER ICE FISHING ADVENTURE

By Scott Brewer & Kyle Agre

For many of us, the thought of a walleye over ten pounds coming up through a hole in the ice is something we have played out in our minds many times. Large lakes are the playground of true trophy walleyes. Lake Winnipeg, located just 40 miles north of the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba, is a body of water where these dreams can, and often do, come true for those who venture out onto its frozen waters. Walleyes from the massive North Basin of Lake Winnipeg, sporting iridescent green coloration from the rich limestone deposits in that part of the lake, migrate into the South Basin following the rainbow smelt and emerald shiners during autumn right on through the hard water season. "Greenbacks" exceeding 10, 12 and even 14 pounds are possible any time out on this, the 11th largest freshwater lake in the world. Greenbacks are considered by many to be the most coveted trophy walleye in North America.

In light of this, one would think that people would be flocking to Manitoba in search of a trophy greenback. This is true to some extent, but there still remains an element of intimidation for those who have never fished big water through the ice. The possibility of brutal winter conditions, treacherous travel, and expanses of water so huge it would take a lifetime to narrow the search for fish, all keep would be anglers away from this "trip of a lifetime". Very often, local fishing clubs and organizations are a great resource for planning, preparing and even joining others for a group outing to Lake Winnipeg or other large, unfamiliar bodies of water.

FM Walleyes Unlimited, based out of Fargo, ND/Moorhead, MN is one such organization that has taken this idea and turned it into an annual event. Each year, in March, club members venture north and meet up with members of the WAAM (Walleye Anglers Association of Manitoba) club, based out of Winnipeg. This event has grown each year since it began in 2008 when a handful of Lund Boats pro-staffers from the two clubs met to spend a weekend ice fishing together. In four short years, this event has grown to over 100 members from these clubs joining in the festivities including a number of young anglers.

The collaboration between the two clubs benefits everyone involved. Many of the WAAM members are familiar with Lake Winnipeg, having spent much of their lives fishing its waters. WAAM members, Roger Stearns, Lee Nolden, Donovan Pearase and Frank & Dorothy Normand, are all professional guides on Lake Winnipeg and all willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the group. They serve as advisors for the visitors who have never been out on the lake, and provide valuable information for everyone regarding the latest bite. FM Walleyes Unlimited provides a banquet room on Friday and Saturday night to host a social where members of both clubs can meet, share strategies, tell fish stories, and build lasting relationships.

Local expertise and guidance are keys to a successful trip as tactics for fishing on Lake Winnipeg are sometimes different than on other bodies of water. As a matter of fact, this is where many manufacturers test new groundbreaking tactics. The South Basin is nearly featureless with massive schools of baitfish & walleye roaming the expanses and relating to small changes in depth and structure such as ice ridges. Common tactics in these areas include lipless rattling crankbaits ripped through the water column, rattling jigging spoons, and flasher jigs, all tipped with a salted shiner. Unlike typical ice fishing situations, big and bold presentations are the rule of thumb.

The use of electronics is key to icing trophy walleyes on big water. The subtle finessing of fish or aggressive triggering are determined by their reaction as read on a flasher or other sonar. Each day the fish's mood may be different and the ability to "read" them puts the angler at a distinct advantage. Electronics are also very helpful in locating the depth of fish and baitfish. Many of the largest greenbacks can be found suspended in the water column.

Having accurate information, proper equipment and experienced guidance are crucial safety factors when venturing out onto such large bodies of water. During the cold winter months Mother Nature can be unforgiving and one wrong move can bring a fun trip to a tragic end. An excellent example of this point is illustrated in this past year's outing on Lake Winnipeg. A beautiful morning on the lake five miles from shore soon turned to a complete white out when an unexpected ground blizzard blew in. Without the use of portable GPS units all the people fishing in a 1.5 square mile area would not have been able to find one another. As the group began to make their way back to shore mechanical problems with one of the sleds could have spelled disaster. Traveling in a group provides safety when things don't go as planned. Even though these challenges made for some tense moments, the sled was repaired with the tools on hand and everyone made it safely off the lake.

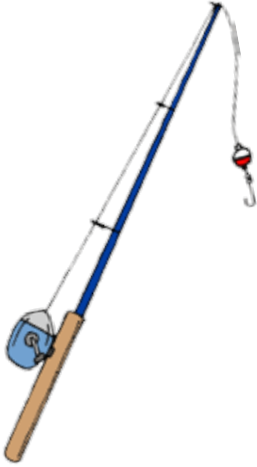
Lake Winnipeg, along with many other big waters, presents challenges and safety concerns. But they should not be intimidating or prohibiting anyone from pursuing the bounty that lies beneath the frozen waters. Careful planning and taking advantage of resources available will make your trip an eventful one. This year's FM Walleyes Unlimited/WAAM Lake Winnipeg trip will take place March 16 to 18th. For more information on this event go to the FM Walleyes Unlimited website www.fmwalleyes.com or look up FM Walleyes Unlimited on Facebook.

ANGLERS NITE ON ICE



FISHING ROD BUILDING CLASS

Learn how to construct, repair, and properly care for a fishing rod. All materials are included. After the class, each participant will leave with their own personalized fishing rod. Two separate classes will be offered.



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- TIMES:** The class hours are: Friday: 5:30-9PM and Saturday: 9AM-5PM.
- LOCATION:** Scheels All Sports
- COST:** \$150.00 per person, pre-registration required
- Gift certificates available*
- CONTACT:** Chuck DeRemer, 701-361-8910 or cderemer@cableone.net.

MEMBER PHOTOS:

*If you would like to submit a picture of your trophy or just a good memory please e-mail your photo to:
bdahlin62@gmail.com*



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Mark Your Calendars for the 2012 Lake Winnipeg Ice Fishing Excursion!

FM Walleyes Unlimited & WAAM will again be
making a trek up to the expansive Lake Winnipeg
in search of trophy greenback walleyes on
March 16-18th, 2012

Further details & lodging information will be
available soon! To sign up for e-mails regarding
details of the trip contact
Scott Brewer 701-388-4408
or Kyle Agre 701-429-1242

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – 6pm Tuesday, December 6th, 2011

@ Kelly Inn on Main Avenue, Fargo ND

Meeting was called to order @ 6.00 pm by President, Gary Sauvageau.

Absent Board Member: Steve Meyer, Steve Hall, Kyle Agre, Bill

General Members Present: Tami

Review of November board meeting minutes. Motion was made Via e-mail by Ron Shar to approve the November meeting minutes as submitted. Rick Mohan 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. N/A

Current Membership: Members paid; 318. Total memberships; 384.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brainerd Panel- Scott Brewer: 4-5 guest speakers from the Brainerd Lakes area will be speaking at our January general meeting. Boat Rigging & Electronics Experts: Jim Wentworth and Andy Kratochvil -Fish Lectronics of Nisswa- Prop Expert: "The Propman" Ricky Besmehn owner of Brainerd Propeller, Inc; Brainerd Area Guide: Herschel (Butch) Blasing

We will be working with Chad Maloy to get info out about this meeting to KFGO and other outlets.

These gentleman have a lot of info to share about fishing and fishing their area.

Sponsorships: Scott: Kyle is still working on existing and meeting with new sponsors. Thank You to all for your generous support of our club and FM Walleye events.

Winnipeg Trip: Kyle/Scott: You can reserve rooms at the Casino now. The Winnipeg club is looking forward to this year's event and is getting their club ready for our fishing trip.

Walleye University: Scot and Bill are getting geared up for the FM YMCA Indoor Ice Fishing event set for January 21st from 1:30 to 3:30pm. Tickets are \$10 for adult and \$5 for kids 12 and over. When you purchase a ticket, this allows you a chance for the 3 raffles prizes in the youth and adult drawing. The ticket also allows you to try your hand at the fishing pond for a chance at cash prizes for the largest fish. Top raffle prize for adults is a Scheels \$500 gift card and 1 week stay at Camp Cormorant for the youth division. See Scot for tickets or for more information. Volunteers are need for this event.

Ron Shar presented a letter The Y-Service club president, Jerry Thoemke, sent a letter requesting \$1,000 from the FM Walleyes for scholarships to be used for the indoor ice fishing and scholarships to the Y-Camp. Scott made a motion to provide the \$1,000, Ron 2nd the motion, all in favor. Motion carried.

Dinner Dance: A lot of donations have been coming in and over-all we have had a great response. Tami has more posters to hand out in order to get more word out. The Kelly Inn has rooms 10 rooms reserved for the FM Walleyes for \$72.99. These are open to all members. They will hold these till 1 week before the dance and then will let them go.

The date is set for February 4th, 2012. Contact Scot Johnson or Tami Stillwell for more information.

Nominating Committee: Nothing

NEW BUSINESS:

Sportsman Show: Scott B- We have a booth this year at the Sportsman show and look forward to having some of our members helping out. This will be a great way to promote the club with all we have done and a chance to talk with many about fishing.

AIS/CARP COALITION: Barry- I've accepted an invitation to participate in the Aquatic Invasive Species Legislative Summit on Jan 14, 2012 at M-State in Detroit Lakes, MN - Kyle and I will make a short power point presentation for our assigned 10 minute time slot where we are asked to speak specifically to "Fishing Tournaments & AIS".

Barry also touched on his involvement this past fall in the Aquatic Invasive Plant Species meetings with the DNR. They asked me to participate with the group as there is a lack of a fisherman's perspective in the group. We had 2-3 meetings scheduled this fall - it was accomplished in 2 meetings - There are 3 new positions statewide created at the DNR to deal with these issues. I did bring a bit of a different message than most of the current group.

AYA: Barry- Barry has signed on for the 5th year. Still looking for someone to step up and help with this tournament. Barry and Keith want to keep this going and are looking for some help taking this over.

MN 2012 Walleye Stocking Program: Barry: The stocking ponds are going very well. All are producing around the state. Detroit Lakes area are producing at a normal rate. All in all, Barry is very pleased with the results. The fingerlings are producing at a very good size.

ROUNDTABLE:

Scott: Scott- Reminder that the NAAP conference is set for January 6th, 7th & 8th in Minneapolis. If anyone plans to go, please let Scott B know.

Brian: Please get all Walleye Lines info to Brian ASAP so there is time to proof and to get out on time. Looking for a bait dealer in the Detroit Lakes area for the back of our FM Walleyes membership card. Looking to raise the membership to \$25 for 2012.

Barry: Barry is looking into some changes to the Pelican tournament. Possible on changing site from Fairhills resort to Castaway. Still working on this and more to follow.

Motion to adjourn by Gary Sauvageau, 2nd by Rick Mohan, All in favor, motion passed.

The next board meeting will be @ 6pm on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2011 @ the Kelly Inn on Main, Fargo ND.

Please remember that all general club members are welcome to attend board meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Scot Johnson, Recording Secretary.



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Membership Application and Renewal

F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc. - An area sportsman's club, dedicated to the preservation and improvement of walleye fishing, invites you to join and actively participate in our fishing club

Application for Membership: \$20 Jr. Member (under 18) - FREE New Renew

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____ Work (____) _____ - _____

Do you own a boat? Yes No Would you like to fish with other club members? Yes No

E-mail: _____

Membership requirements: Persons desiring membership must be those who can act in a sportsmanlike manner and will be a credit to the organization. Receipt of this application, yearly dues and approval of the Board of Directors are required for membership.

Mail application to:
F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc., PO Box 1017, Moorhead, MN 56560.

Signature of Applicant: x _____

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Date _____ Init _____

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stevegarten@q.com

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