



Lake Region Anglers Association

PO Box 456, Devils Lake, ND 58301

• Sportsmanship • Conservation • Youth Activities • Preservation

Reminder: If dues are not current, this is your last newsletter.

MARCH 2010

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16	F Troop Bull Session with Devils Lake Fishery Coordinator Randy Hiltner and ND Game and Fish's Scott Gangl at Lake Region College, 7PM
March 19	LRAA Annual Meeting at Devils Lake KC's, 6 PM
April 9th	North Dakota Sportfishing Congress Annual Fundraiser at Mandan Eagles, 6PM
April 10th	North Dakota Sportfishing Congress Annual Board Meeting at ND Game and Fish Offices in Bismarck, 10AM
May 15th	LRAA Spring Northern Outing at 6 Mile Bay
June 5	LRAA East Bay Outing at East Bay Ramp
June 5	ND Teen Challenge at Lakewood Beach
June 12-13	Casino Tournament at Spirit Lake Casino
June 19	LRAA Devils Lake Open at Lakewood Beach
June 26-27	34th Devils Lake Area Chamber Walleye Tournament at Grahams Island State Park
July 10	Angler Young Anglers (AYA) Tournament at Lakewood Beach
July 17	LRAA Adult/ Child Outing at Grahams Island
July 29-31	FLW Tournament at Spirit Lake Casino
August 14	LRAA Walleye Widows Outing at Grahams Island State Park
August 21-22	Masters Walleye Circuit at Grahams Island State Park
Sept 2	Devils Lake Area Community Fish Fry and Corn Feed, location to be announced

Support those who support us: NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

The North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC) is the North Dakota fishermen's statewide representative to the Game and Fish Department, the North Dakota Legislature, the Corps of Engineers and other state and Federal Agencies whose actions that affect the quality of fishing in North Dakota. A coalition of many fishing and outdoor clubs and individual fishermen throughout the state, NDSFC supports a full time lobbyist in Bismarck during the Biennial Legislative Session, represents fishing interests on numerous State and Federal committees and stays in direct contact with the ND Game and Fish Department to help support their mission. Your support of the NDSFC through your membership and participation helps NDSFC protect and improve North Dakota's already superior fishing. When you renew your LRAA membership, be sure to join the NDSFC and include your email so you are included in statewide information distribution.

Lake Region Anglers Association Officers Board of Directors

President:.....Clark Williams
 Vice President:.....Tom Rost
 Secretary:.....Cathy Nord
 Treasurer:.....Brenda Barstad
 Past President:.....Bruce Hagen

Board Members: 2008-2010

Ralph Gardner, Larry Schneider, Keith Seidlinger,
Travis Clemens

Board Members: 2009-2011

Lynn Schlueter, Jim Yri, Jake Sanders, Tim Rutten,
Johnnie Candle

Newsletter Editor.....Michelle Williams
 Membership Coordinator.....Ryan Colfield
 Publicity Coordinator.....Johnnie Candle
 Lake Access Coordinator.....Ed Desch

Prez Sez: Enough is enough

Just when we thought it couldn't get wetter- guess what? When you're a fisherman your activities focus on water, but enough is enough. Devils Lake's 3 ft rise last year pressured state and federal agencies to move quickly ahead with plans to raise highways and dikes. This summer promises to be another train wreck for roads around Devils Lake, including many of those going to lake accesses.

Now guess what- the lake's coming up again! Right now, predictions are that water levels will jump at least three more feet. And if we get more snow or have a rainy spring, who knows? Consequently, fishermen should be aware that after the challenge of getting to some ramps, getting to favorite fishing spots may be difficult and even dangerous. We lost the north ramp at Minnewaukan last summer and dike work has

closed Henegar's Landing for the season. Only because ND Game and Fish and Grahams Island State Park people were on their toes last spring were we able to save the East Bay, 6 Mile Bay and Black Tiger Access facilities. If the lake comes up ONLY the projected three feet those ramps should still be useable, but reconstruction of parts of Hwy 19, Hwy 20, Hwy 57 and Woods-Rutten Road will also complicate getting there in the first place.

And don't forget- higher water means boating under bridges, especially at Hwy 57 and Woods-Rutten Road, is going to get even chancier, especially with wave action from west and northwest winds. With the promised 3 foot rise, boats with windshields may not be able to make it under these bridges at all. Pelican, East Devils Lake, Mission Bay and the north end of 6 Mile may soon be inaccessible by water. There are no plans to raise the bridges when the highways are raised, so we'll have to find other solutions. Lake Region Anglers is continuing to work with other agencies to help find those solutions, but they

won't be easy, they won't be quick and they won't be cheap.

The road to Graham's Island from Hwy 19 is in danger of going under. We can't afford to lose this important access. The last time the road was threatened NDDOT did not plan on raising it, but Senator Dorgan found the money to get it done. If NDDOT decides to let the road go again, the most heavily used North Dakota State Park and most heavily used access facility on Devils Lake will be an island again.

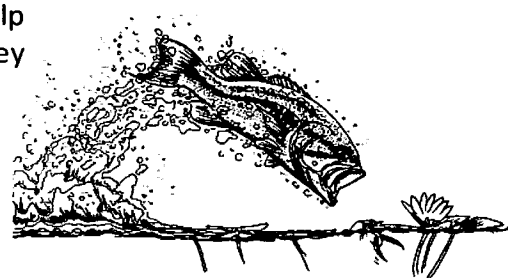
On a positive note, Game and Fish says the Devils Lake walleye population is at a record high. The fish are healthy and plentiful. Perch fishing has picked up. The northern and white bass jump in your boat when you look for them (and even when you don't.) Fishing should be great again this year, but be ready for some hassles getting there and getting used to more new water changing favorite fishing spots. Spring only looks far off; but it'll be ice-out before we know it. GOOD FISHIN'. I'll see you at the Annual Meeting March 19 at Devils Lake KC's.

LRAA 2010 Club Outings Schedule

Look forward to our traditional Club Outings again this year, which are all scheduled for Saturdays, weather permitting. See our webpage at ndsportfishingcongress.org for all outing applications and a complete schedule of North Dakota fishing tournaments for 2010. Apps for our events will also be available at local bait shops in the weeks before each outing and on the morning of each event.

Spring Northern	May 15
East Bay Outing	June 5
Devils Lake Open	June 19
Adult /Child Outing	July 17
Walleye Widow	August 14

6 Mile Bay
East Bay
Lakewood Beach
Grahams Island
Grahams Island



2010 Calendar Raffle

We'll continue this successful fund raiser this year. Tickets are \$20 each, available in books of 10. There will be \$2,000 in cash prizes. Cash drawings will take place every week from May until September at Ed's Bait Shop. Proceeds will go towards supporting community activities throughout the year. If you'd like a ticket or would like to sell a book or ten, contact Clark at LRAA@gondtc.com or at 662-5008.

Team of the Year

The team that fishes the first three club team events in 2010 (Spring Northern, East Bay Earlybird and Devils Lake Open) and earns the most points will be the Lake Region Anglers Assn 2010 Team of the Year. The Team of the Year will qualify to attend the Cabela's National Team Championship in 2011. Teams must be entered in all three events before the start of the Spring Northern. One partner may substitute for one event and still qualify for team of the Year. See the LRAA Webpage for complete rules, the formula we use and updates on points standings.

Membership Renewals

Annual membership is due by the Annual Meeting for the coming year. There is a renewal application in this newsletter and on our website at ndsportfishingcongress.org and at the door at the Annual Meeting itself. Be sure to include your email address if you use one- we send out a lot of information and announcements by email to save costs and get information out to you as soon as possible. If you join the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress at the same time, you will support our statewide fishing interests and receive statewide information as it happens.



Ed says, "Hey! Handle them waldoes with kid gloves!" (Careful, this one's loaded....)



2010 Annual Meeting and Fishing Seminar to be held

The Lake Region Anglers Assn Annual Meeting is on tap for Friday, March 19 at the KC's in Devils Lake. Don't miss this- it's shaping up to be a fun event. The No-Host Social starts at 6PM and there will be a light meal served. We will have some buckets prizes as well as at least one 50/50 in addition to our normal Door Prizes (we've got some really good ones this year.) There will also be 2 drawings: one for a scholarship to the Kids' Fishing Camp run by Lure 'Em for Life for the younger ones and a pair of scholarships for the "Becoming an Outdoor Woman"

camp for the ladies.

The presentations will catch your interests and give out some new information. And the discussions afterward promise to be on the lively side. We'll also have Recognition Awards for certain local anglers. We Anglers don't have too many opportunities to get together, so don't miss this one!

Who is that masked man, uh, guest speaker, anyway? Find out who's behind the question mark at the Annual Meeting, March 19.

LRAA Webpage

Lake Region Anglers maintains a webpage on the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress website at ndsportfishing-congress.org. You can see our newsletters, tournament applications, tournament results, more pictures and much more on the webpage. Fourteen other member clubs from around the state maintain webpages there also. Support the NDSFC.

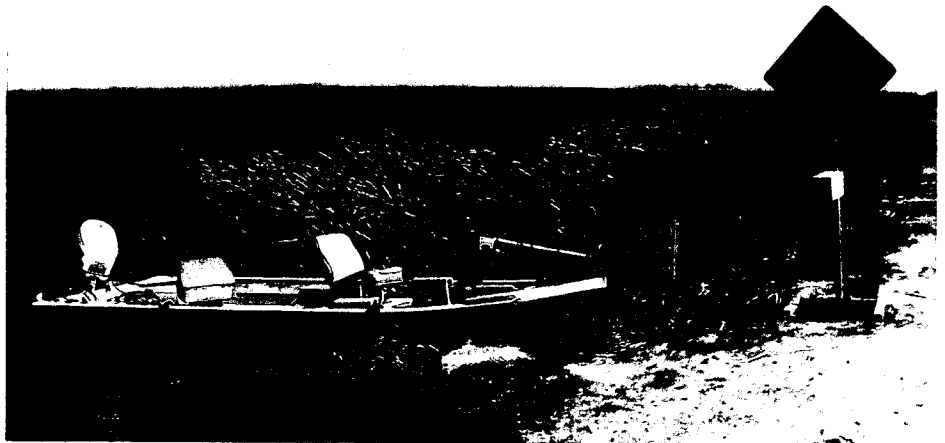
Election of Officers

Elections will be held this year for a number of Board Positions. If you have any interest in serving please contact the Nominating Committee, either Clark, Brenda Barstad or Lynn Schlueter. You can email Clark at LRAA@gondtc.com.

F(-ishing for Fun) Troop for March— The Return of Hiltner and Gangl

Don't miss the Devils Lake Fisheries presentation on March 16, Lake Region College, 7:00pm. North East Fisheries District Supervisor for Devils Lake Randy Hiltner and Fish Management Leader for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department Scott Gangl, will update the general public on the state of the Devils Lake fishery. Expect to hear the latest, cutting-edge info on changing fish populations, current stocking plans and other management issues. Stay for the general discussion afterwards, which may be more dynamic, and shall we say, as energetic as in past years. Don't miss it.

Summer access & boat ramps



The boat ramp situation, let alone getting to them in the first place, will only worsen with rising lake levels and dike construction. It's a bigger challenge every year to keep what we already have open, accessible and safe. Let's not even talk about navigating under bridges, especially on windy days, for those of us with tall boats and/or windshields. Many of you will remember frantically removing windshields to get under the Hwy 57 weir in the eighties. And the North Dakota Department of Transportation has no plans to raise bridges when they raise the roads again.

LRAA and the Game and Fish Department have been turning over options to deal with these problems, but are hampered by the unpredictability of the lake rise. Suitable locations for new ramps are extremely few to nonexistent because most shoreline areas of Devils Lake have too shallow a slope to accommodate the drop needed to, well, drop in your boat. Not to mention that the few sites that might meet the criteria are too far from good roads to make them feasible.

Pelican Lake: We have been looking at options to construct a ramp and access facility on Pelican Lake for four years and don't seem any closer now than when we started. We've researched a number of locations and situations, including using the old Hwy 281 roadbed as a base. Every site we've considered comes with its own complex set of problems, including huge costs, getting Federal approvals, and dealing with the unknown consequences of rising water. We will continue to work on a solution but don't expect anything in 2010.

Lake Irvine: We have submitted a proposal to Game and Fish for a small access out of Churches Ferry onto Lake Irvine. Construction is contingent upon final lake levels. If the lake comes up the projected three feet, this site will be under water. We will send out updated info in Spring, when we know where things stand. Watch your newsletters, email and check our webpage.

East Devils Lake: We have no plans to develop an access on East Devils Lake at present but are looking at possible sites for the future. If the lake climbs the projected three feet, passing under the Woods-Rutten Bridge will become questionable for boats with a windshield or when a west wind pushes up swells. If members have any suggestions or possible solutions contact a Board Member or send an email to LRAA@gondtc.com.

Henegar Landing: Due to dike construction, this facility will be closed and the cleaning station unusable for the foreseeable future. Plans are to rebuild the ramp and the cleaning station will remain where it is now.

ND Sportfishing Congress Fundraiser to be held April 9, 2010

The NDSFC will hold its Annual Fundraiser On Friday April 9th at the Mandan Eagles. This is good time with lots of door prizes, dollar ticket prizes, bucket prizes, socializing and just a generally a great opportunity to meet people from all around North Dakota who share your interest in fishing. The proceeds go to support the NDSFC Lobbyist, who supports

your fishing interests and only your fishing interests in the State Legislature.

Tickets are \$25 and include a buffet dinner and the numerous door prizes. Tickets must be purchased in advance so a count can be given to the Eagles. Contact Clark for tickets at shadrap@gondtc.com or 662-5008. Tickets will also be available at the LRAA Annual Meeting.

Clark also has books of NDSFC raffle tickets available. Prizes this year are a Tikka/Beretta 300 WSN Stainless Steel Rifle or a Benelli Nova 12ga Black Synthetic Shotgun. Drawing April 9 at the Mandan Eagles.

One poorly planned trip and Zebra Mussels are here

By LR Schlueter, Statewide ANS Coordinator

The discovery of zebra mussels in Pelican Lake, Minnesota is a real concern to North Dakota anglers. Pelican Lake is a popular fishery for many eastern North Dakotans and Minnesotans. Many of the Pelican anglers are the same ones who will travel to fish other North Dakota walleye waters such as the Missouri River and Devils Lake. And let us not forget that some anglers fish the Red River for catfish and then travel east across the state in search of other fish species.

With this aquatic nuisance species at our door, the movement of zebra mussels into North Dakota must be prevented. It takes doing the ANS inspection each time you leave a water body, not planning on doing it when you have time.

Once a water body is infested, the aquatic nuisance species overwhelm the underwater

habitats, leading to fewer desirable fish. Stocking huge number of fingerlings will not overcome the problems caused by ANS, either. Keeping the ANS out of our waters to begin with is the only solution.

ANS prevention is for all anglers, hunters, boaters and personal watercraft users. New ANS prevention regulations are in place. We all need to:

Inspect and remove all aquatic vegetation from boats, personal watercraft, trailers, and associated equipment such as fishing poles and lures before leaving a water body.

Remove all aquatic vegetation from bait containers when leaving the water.

Drain all water from boats and other watercraft, including bilges, livewells and motors, at the ramp site before leaving a water body. Haul baitfish in a small volume of

water.

Do not transport live aquatic bait or aquatic vegetation into North Dakota. All water must be drained from watercraft upon entering the state.

Do not dump unused bait into any North Dakota water.

Do not introduce any fish into North Dakota waters.

If ANS prevention is ignored, we stand the risk of losing the fishing in North Dakota that we currently enjoy.

For additional information, contact the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in Bismarck at (701) 328-6300 or a local field office or visit the Department's website at <http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/>.

34th Devils Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Walleye Tournament

The applications are out for the 34th Annual Devils Lake Chamber Walleye Fishing Tournament. Go to the Chamber's website at devilslakend.com, the Chamber's FaceBook page, or call Mary at 662-4903.

This local classic has been plagued in recent years by high winds that sometimes forced suspension of competition for a day, but the catches and the camaraderie have always been golden. Tournament Director Johnnie Candle brings his

enthusiasm and knowledge of tournament fishing to the operation and the stage, and makes the process smooth and enjoyable for both competitors and the audience.

New last year, the Chamber Tournament qualified 4 teams for the Cabela's National Team Championship. This year the event is again an NTC qualifying event. Plan now to include the Chamber Tournament in your summer schedule. The dates are June 26-27.

LAKE REGION ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 456
DEVILS LAKE, ND 58301

Prst. Std.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 52
Devils Lake, ND 58301



• Sportsmanship • Conservation • Youth Activities • Preservation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO LAKE REGION ANGLERS ASSN.

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

_____ (CITY) _____ (STATE) _____ ((ZIP)

TELEPHONE NO. _____ (HOME) _____ (WORK)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

LIFETIME
MEMBERSHIP
 Ages 18-59
\$350.00
 Ages 60 & Over
\$250.00
SHIRT SIZE _____

INDIVIDUAL
/ FAMILY
MEMBERSHIP
\$20.00

I wish to add my support to the North Dakota
sportfishing Congress. \$5.00 is enclosed for
my membership to the Congress.

ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER AND MAIL TO:
Lake Region Anglers Assn.
PO Box 456, Devils Lake, ND 58301