

Philip Miller

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Hello to everyone. I am originally from Fordville, a small town about 55 miles northwest of Grand Forks. I have always had an appreciation for natural history and conservation since childhood growing up on the family farm/ranch. As a youth, I often fished the local Forest River system and vacationed in the Minnesota lake country. This led me to pursue a career in natural resources with an emphasis in fisheries management.

I graduated from Fordville-Lankin High School in 1987. In February 1990 I earned my Associate in Applied Science Degree in Natural Resources Conservation and Park/Recreational Area Management from the University of Minnesota-Crookston. I continued college at the University of North Dakota where I obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology in May 1993. The summers of 1989 to 1992 were spent working seasonal maintenance at Icelandic State Park near Cavalier. I was hired as a seasonal fisheries aide for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at Devils Lake the spring of 1993. I continued with this position until the fall of 2001 when I was hired as fisheries technician for the northeast district at Devils Lake.

As fisheries technician I assist with fisheries management and research of about 60 district lakes in the northeast portion of the state including Devils Lake and Stump Lake. The field season usually begins in April with northern pike and walleye spawning/egg collection on Devils Lake. Also during this time I assist with walleye tagging on Devils Lake and yellow perch trap and transport to area lakes. Throughout the summer and fall I am involved with population netting surveys on district lakes and Devils Lake, occasional fish distribution from the hatcheries, water quality monitoring and other duties as assigned. Fall/winter is spent maintaining equipment for the next field season, repairing nets, dissolved oxygen monitoring on district lakes, Devils Lake freshwater shrimp survey and some data compilation. I also attend division meetings and a professional meeting or workshop on occasion.

The most enjoyable part of my work is the diversity of work activities and the people I have worked with over the years. Also, happy anglers make the job more enjoyable as it is often challenging maintaining the fisheries and a satisfied angling public. Also keeping up with the advances in equipment and technology involved with our work is never ending.

If you are in the Devils Lake area feel free to stop in the office and visit.