

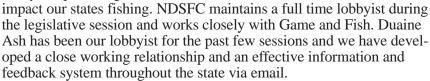
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Volume 11-01

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Clark Williams

The North Dakota Sportfishing Congress was formed more than 20 years ago to promote and protect fishing interests in North Dakota. The NDSFC works with the ND Game and Fish Department, the US Fish and Wildlife, the US Army Corps of Engineers and other entities who



This is the time to pay particular attention to details. Fish resources are threatened by water issues, Aquatic Invasive Species and special interest groups. Even though North Dakota has a surplus of money everyone is looking to grab a big piece of the pie. Protecting the resource and developing access so we can enjoy the fishing costs money. We need to be ready to support and defend resources to maintain and improve our fishing resources. Game and Fish and Access Development monies are all raised by the fishermen and boaters through registration and license fees and through excise taxes from fishing and boating equipment sales. This is **our** money but special interest groups often feel they can better use the money in other ways and try to tap it for those uses. One of the primary missions of the NDSFC is to help protect the Game and Fish money from threats by special interest groups.

We need you, as North Dakota fishermen, to stay vigilant and keep in contact; be ready to join the fight if needed during this important legislative session. Good Fishing.

> Clark Williams, President North Dakota Sportfishing Congress



E-TREE

January 2011

The North Dakota Sportfishing Congress maintains an Email tree for all interested fishermen. This Email tree is for distributing information and for gathering feedback from members about issues that affect fishermen in North Dakota.

During a Legislative Session this becomes even more important. We can influence decisions that will affect fishing in this state for years. Last year the NDSFC members and lobbyist were directly instrumental in saving \$890,000 in Game and Fish money that special interest groups in the Senate tried to strip out of the budget at the last minute. This was in retaliation for Game and Fish's insistence on protecting Devils Lake from potential introduction of Carp from the Red River drainage.

You can be an important part of this process. Be sure we have your email address. If you have friends who are interested fishermen and who would like to follow our posts, we also need their email address. You can contact Clark Williams at shadrap@gondtc.com.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Clark Williams, Devils Lake (701-662-5008) Past President Duaine Ash, Devils Lake (701-662-3989) Vice President Lynn Schlueter, Devils Lake (701-662-1772) Treasurer Rick Eagleson, Fargo (701-235-6536) Directors Mike Anderson, Bismarck (701-224-9048) Don Baasch, Valley City (701-845-1693) Dave Bement, Bismarck (701-258-3583) Ed Dosch, Devils Lake (701-395-4302) Paul Haug, Fargo (701-232-0944) Ron Kraft, Bismarck (701-223-1834) Exec Secretary Marie Hoerner, Bismarck (701-223-8067)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message; E-Tree	Page 1
Annual Fundraiser, LegislativeUpdate	2
Red River Area Sportsmen's Club	2
Voices for Lake Oahe; ANS Update; NDSFC Website	3
FM Walleyes	4
Lake Region Anglers Association	5
Game & Fish Perspectives; Dakota Anglers	6
Annual Dues and Membership Applications	7
Water Stewardship Award	8



ANNUAL MEETING AND FUNDRAISER

The 2011 Spring Fundraiser will again be held at the Mandan Eagles Club. The date is Saturday, April 9th. Tickets will be available later this winter. Contact your local club representatives for tickets and further information.

The NDSFC will also have the annual Board Meeting the morning of Saturday, April 9th starting at 10:00 a.m. This is a very informative meeting which will cover state and federal issues that affect fishing. You will find information and discussions here that you will not find anywhere else. The meeting is open to all members.

Follow announcements on the NDSFC Website for more information - <u>ndsportfishingcongress.org</u>



AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS) LOSE the HITCHHIKERS or LOSE the LAKE It's YOUR CHOICE!

If you have any questions about ANS prevention, please contact:

North Dakota Game & Fish Department

100 N. Bismarck Expressway Bismarck, ND 58501 (701) 328-6300; Email: ndgf@nd.gov

More information can be found at: http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/ans.html

LEGISLATIVE **UPDATE**

Where has the time gone? Seems just like yesterday that we were getting ready for the 61st

Legislative session and now we are getting ready for the 62nd. Luckily, I was asked to lobby for the NDSFC this session and I am looking forward to doing my best for the Congress.

Our leader, Clark Williams established an e-mail tree last session which he would send the bills that pertained to fishing issues out to the membership and ask for your input on the bills. We would use your responses in the testimony presented to the committee it has proven to be a great tool to use as when you can say that a 100% of the e-mails received were for or against a bill, it leaves no doubt where we stand on the issue. So, thanks to all of you that responded to the emails in the last session and hopefully you will continue doing the great job in the 62nd session.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our president, Clark Williams or myself. We will do our best to address your issues and if we don't have the answer, we will try our best to



find someone that can answer them. If you happen to be at the Capitol and need a cup of coffee, look me up and the coffee will be on me.

> Duaine Ash, Lobbyist E-mail: dash@gondtc.com Cell # 701.351.0260

RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB WAHPETON, ND

by Wayne Beyer

The Red River Area Sportsmen's Club and Heitkamp Construction are planning a Youth Ice Fishing Derby at Heitkamp Pond, a private fishery a couple miles north of Wahpeton from 1-3 PM on Saturday, March 5th. A couple hundred children, along with parents, typically enjoy the event. Neil Heitkamp and crew drill holes, provide minnows, solicit door prizes for all contestants, loan all the fishing equipmnet needed, cook hot dogs and hot cocoa and provide trophies for placewinners. Fishing has proven to be hot and cold, but usually a fair number of crappies, among other sport fish, are caught. This has proven to be a terrific event to introduce youths and families to the great sport of ice fishing.







Voices for Lake Oahe and the Emmons County Commissioners are actively focusing on the Cattail Bay Road Improvement Project. This would consist of sub/ grade prep. and paving of entire road way from Highway 1804 to the boat ramp, approximately 5.25 miles. Total estimated cost \$2,088,762.00.

This project is broken down into two phases:

Phase One:

Widen and prepare sub/grade base for paving from boat ramp (east) out to first intersection, approximately 1.25 miles, this includes launch site and parking lot. Cost estimate \$307,335.00.Completion date fall of 2011.

To date VFLO has secured \$100,000 of SRF funds and \$18,750.00 in private monies for total of \$118,750 of the estimated \$307,335.00 for phase one.

Phase Two:

Minimal sub/grade prep. of remaining 4 miles and paving of entire project to be completed in conjunction with schedule resurfacing of Highway 1804 from junction of Highway 13 (13 west of Linton) to the South Dakota border in 2012.

VFLO is working with District #28 Representatives Mike Brandeburg and William Kretschnar, and District #28 Senator Robert Erbele to draft a bill for introduction at the 2011 legislative session for the balance of funds to complete project.

> Ron Kraft, VFLO Board of Directors; 223-1834

NDSFC WEBSITE

Check out the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress website ndsportfishingcongress.org. The website has information about issues from the Legislature, from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, US Fish and Wildlife, US Army Corps of Engineers and from 14



member fishing and outdoor clubs in North Dakota.

ND GAME & FISH DEPARTMENGT by LR Schlueter, ANS Coordinator



AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES UPDATE

More private citizens, organized groups, and private entities are now working on ANS prevention. Power companies, construction companies, water project developers, municipal water plants, and others are interested in ANS prevention as a money saving undertaking. They are helping what was considered the traditional impacted groups of anglers, waterfowl hunters, and resource management agencies. Each group may have a different prospective of what the resource should be used for, each group wants the resource protected. It is this new awareness and the change in thinking that is important to keep more ANS out of our state or having what is here moved to new areas.

The new regulation, requiring boats, bilges, and livewells to be drained, is an important new tool in preventing ANS problems from being moved to new areas. The boat's livewell can contain many gallons of water which could harbor plant fragments or small invertebrates. When these boats travel with water to new areas and that water is pumped off, the problem can be spread. It is simpler and better to drain the livewell, put the catch on ice, put the aquatic bait in a small, suitable container for transport to the next lake, and be safe from ANS transport.

A zebra mussel veliger was collected from the southern Red River in a spring sample. Frequent followup sampling with zooplankton tows and/or inspection of bottom substrates has not found other individuals. North Dakota monitors high risk waters for ANS infestation each year. Waters at risk are ones which are major destination for non-residents or residents coming from infested waters, have high boat traffic, and are suitable habitats for ANS. If these areas are infested, then it is easy for that infestation to be spread to other nearby waters where the ANS infestation can then be spread to other nearby waters where the ANS infestation can be spread – on and on – you get the idea. When an ANS infestation is established, it can be spread to new areas.

ANS prevention works. It is the best and most effective way of preventing new problems in new areas. ANS prevention needs to be a common practice by all who enjoy the outdoors or have a stake in aquatic resources. It is simple and effective.



FM WALLEYES UNLIMITED, INC. HAS BEEN NAMED AS 2011 FRESH WATER FISHING HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

A special presentation ceremony was held Thursday, December 9th at the Kelly Inn on Main Avenue in Fargo. Legendary Angler ,"Mr. Walleye",

Gary Roach represented the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and presented the designation to the club during their annual "Anglers Night, *On Ice*!". Following the presentation, guest speaker Zippy Dahl shared his ice fishing tips with the audience.

Bill Gautsche, Jr., Awards Committee Chairman for the Hall of Fame wrote "It goes without saying that this honor recognizes FM Walleyes for its contribution, dedication and service to the fresh water sportfishing industry. With this, their Pioneering Spirit will always be remembered."

The Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame (<u>www.freshwaterfishing.org</u>), located in Hayward, Wisconsin has been in existence since 1976 to honor those groups and individuals who have had a significant impact on the fresh water sport fishing world. The Organizational/Corporate or Government Entity category began in

FM Walleyes Upcoming Speakers

January 20th – Guest speakers at this meeting will be Craig Stapon, Roger Stearns and Jason Gauthier of Winnipeg, MB. Craig is a renowned Muskie fisherman and host of "Let's Talk Fishing" on CJOB Winnipeg, Roger is a guide on Lake Winnipeg and considered the "greenback guru" when it comes to ice fishing for trophy walleyes on the big lake.

<u>February 17th</u> – Professional Fisherman Chris Gilman Chris grew up in northern Wisconsin and currently resides in Chisago, MN. When asked when he started fishing he simply says, "I've been fishing since I was able to walk."

He has been fishing tournaments for 21 years and is currently the nation's number 1 ranked walleye tournament angler and has accounted for 42 top 10 finishes in major events.

During his long career Chris's accomplishments have included earning the prestigious titles of "FLW Championship winner", FLW Walleye tour "Angler of the Year", the Professional Walleye Trail "Angler of the Year" and is if that is not enough he is also a 2time winner of the "Professional Walleye Trail Top Gun Award" and a 5-time tournament champion. The meetings are at the Doublewood Inn on 13th Ave S in Fargo. Doors open at 6:30pm and the meetings start at 7:00pm

As usual we will have raffle tables set up and FM Walleyes Merchandise available to purchase. If there is anything I missed please feel free to contact me, 1984 to honor groups that "have demonstrated and/or performed a valuable service or act to benefit fresh water sport fishing within its jurisdiction or the boundaries of its organization whether local, regional or national".

FM Walleyes Unlimited, Inc., a regional fishing club based in Fargo, ND/Moorhead, MN was incorporated in 1977 under the mission of "promoting conservation, sportsmanship and education with respect to walleye fishing". Throughout its history, FM Walleyes Unlimited has maintained a focus on sharing the sport of fishing with beginner and avid anglers alike. With this passion for the sport of fishing and the outdoors FM Walleyes Unlimited has forged a positive impact to its members and the community on a local, regional and national level.

The complete application for induction into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame submitted by FM Walleyes is available at <u>www.fmwalleyes.com</u>.

FM Walleyes is offering a limited edition of Hall of Fame apparel. If interested, please contact Rick Mahon, call 701-261-2918 or email <u>Richard.mohan@basf.com</u>.





LAKE REGION ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

by Clark Williams

Lake Region Anglers has been busy trying to help the Lake Region stay ahead of the rising water. Working with the Devils Lake Chamber, the Lake Access Committee, the ND Game and Fish Department, ND Department of Transportation, the Spirit Lake tribe and others to find ways to maintain existing access and possibly increase access. We expect this year that most bridges will be impassable for boats with windshields especially when there is any wind (when is there not?).

With that in mind, such prime fishing areas such as Pelican Lake, East Devils Lake, Mission Bay and the north end of 6 Mile Bay will be inaccessible soon. The rising waters also threaten access at 6 Mile Bay, East Bay, Black Tiger, Minnewaukan South (North is already gone) and Lakewood. Even Grahams Island access will need to raise the access roads and ramp if we go up more than 3 feet. On a positive note, Henegar Landing should reopen by midsummer (maybe), although the trucks extending the dike may be using that for transporting materials so this announcement may be premature.

There are plans to raise the road into Grahams Island this summer, construction probably won't start until July but then it will be a mess. Speaking of messes, continued road construction on Hwy 19 and Hwy 57/20 will make getting around a trial, lots of pilot cars and delays. The Woods Rutten Road to Black Tiger was worked on last year and should be in good shape this year.

Working with the city of Church's Ferry and the Game and Fish Dept., LRAA placed a temp ramp and docks on the south side of Lake Irvine, allowing access to the prime fishery. It will have to moved with the rising water but we hope we can continue to maintain an access there.

LRAA is working with Game and Fish to find a solution to a Pelican Lake Access but the solution is expensive with the price going up daily as the road and dike work in the area makes rock, fill and available construction contractors scarce and expensive. We've got our fingers crossed on that one. More good news.....

ICE FISHING

Snow and more snow, poor ice, lots of slush. If you don't have a snowmobile or tracks, forget it. Even walking is tough. There are a few trails out of Woodlands (for a price). For those who get out, the weight of the snow makes lots of water on the ice. We need a few weeks of real cold weather to freeze the slush, thicken the ice and of course make less snow. The few reports we get are that those who can get out are catching fish but it's WORK.

TOURNAMENTS and ANS0

LRAA runs 5 club outings in the summer and we have been strongly emphasizing ANS prevention in them for many years now. We have extended that emphasis to the Devils Lake Chamber Tournament and the MWC tournaments. We now have an official ANS inspection station in Devils Lake (CENEX West) and all tournament participants are required to be inspected before they prefish. The Game and Fish is recommending all state open water tournaments adopt a similar policy.

The Devils Lake Chamber Walleye Tournament and Devils Lake MWC Tournament will be run at the same time, June 24, 25 and 26. Participants can enter one or both. The MWC was looking at later in the summer but there is concern about the road raise on the access road to Grahams Island. It should be a hoot.

On a high note, Lake Region professional angler and LRAA Board Member Johnnie Candle and his partner Dave Noble won the World Walleye Championship of the MWC in October at Prairie Du Chein, Wisconsin on the Mississippi River. They won going away. Johnnie and Dave also placed 10th in the Cabela's National Team Championship in June on Lake Winnebago and 15th in the concurrently run MWC tournament. Johnnie donates a guided fishing day on Devils Lake each year to the NDSFC for a prize at our fundraiser. This was the largest walleye tournament of all time with more than 350 teams. NTC runs a good tournament; it's by invitation only with anglers from all over the country.

DEVILS LAKE FISHING

We expect great fishing on Devils Lake. The 19+ class of walleyes is a record numbers, the forage is unbelievable but its sometimes hard to figure out how to catch the big fish with great forage, lots of water and weed beds to 10+ feet. They are there.

WEBSITE

LRAA has worked with Marie to redo our webpage in the new format. It looks great. Check it out for info on the club and stuff going on around the Lake Region.



GAME AND FISH PERSPECTIVES

by Greg Power

Since so few of us have been ice fishing so far this winter, I thought this would be an opportune time to at least talk about this hard-water recreational pursuit. Ice fishing so far this winter is paralleling what we've witnessed the past two winters – lots of snow, poor to non-existent access and little fishing. And that's unfortunate. Wet conditions the past few years have produced a record number of water bodies in North Dakota that are managed as fisheries, many with young populations of northern pike, yellow perch and other species. We are now at a record number of managed water bodies statewide.

Ice fishing is a tradition that most of us were exposed to at a young age. Because of the general importance of ice fishing in our state I thought I'd share some facts. In North Dakota, almost 25% of our annual fishing effort occurs on the ice. However, with the extreme conditions Mother Nature has dealt each of the past two years, the annual effort of ice-fishing has dropped to between 5-10%. Devils Lake, Lake Audubon, Lake Darling and Lake Sakakawea have received most of the angling effort in the past several years but in years to come there likely will be greatly expanded effort on many of our smaller water bodies scattered across the state.

During the first decade of the 2000's, on average 37% of North Dakota anglers reported they ice fished during the course of a winter. However, merely 4% of our resident anglers report they *only* ice fish (compared to 59% who say they only open-water fish). North Dakota anglers also spend fewer days ice-fishing (~6 days) compared to open-water fishing (almost 14 days). Looking at information from last year (again note winter conditions were difficult), residents spent about 270,000 days ice-fishing compared to approximately 20,000 days for non-residents.

Fish targeted by ice anglers shifts during the winter. Throughout the summer 10% and 2% of North Dakota anglers report northern pike and yellow perch as there #1 species choice. In the winter, perch receive substantially more attention rising to 22% while another 16% choose pike as #1 (of course walleye are #1 in summer (82%) and winter (58%)). In terms of non-resident ice anglers, those from Minnesota and Wisconsin dominate year after year.

For the immediate future, heavy snowpack so far this winter has fisheries biologists concerned about the potential for low oxygen levels in many lakes.



DAKOTA ANGLERS

by Nathan Selchert

2011 Calendar of Events

TOURNAMENTS

- May 21-22 35th Annual Dakota Anglers Walleye / Northern Tournament
- June 4 Little Britches Tournament for kids/adults, Jamestown Reservoir (Free fishing weekend)

MEETINGS (7:00 pm @ All Vets Club)

- January 12th
- February 9th
- March 9th
- April 2nd (Awards Banquet) Vets Club
- April 20th (Annual Meeting) Location TBD
- May 11th
- August 10th
- November 9th

INTER OUTING (Fishing tournament)

• January 15 – Registration and Chili feed will be January 14, 6:00-7:00 pm @ Anchor Bar

The likelihood of winterkill increases when substantial snow comes early and stays on the lake, as has been the case so far this winter. As in the past during tough winters, we will undoubtedly lose fish populations in some lakes to winterkill, but it's just too early to predict how many or which ones. For comparative purposes, one of North Dakota's more severe winters occurred two years ago which resulted in nearly 50 lakes suffering at least partial winterkill. Biologists will be assess-

> ing dissolved oxygen levels in many lakes throughout the state beginning in late-January and continuing through February.

Even with some expected winterkill, most of North Dakota's water bodies will be in great shape. As spring nears, access onto our lakes and reservoirs will inevitably improve, allowing for late season ice fishing opportunities. Reference the ND Game and Fish Department website for a current list of lakes - <u>http://gf.nd.gov/</u> <u>fishing/nd-fish-wat.html</u>- many if not most of these lakes have healthy fish populations. Wet a line!



"It's the newest thing out in a measuring stick"

ANNUAL DUES NOW DUE

This newsletter will serve as a notice to the Club Members and the Individual Members (who have not already paid their dues) that the annual dues are now due. (Your membership paid-up date is at the top of your mailing label listed as the month/year, e.g., 04/11.)

Club Member's dues are \$50 and are due on or before the annual meeting that is held in April of each year. To maintain your club's voting rights for 2010-11, please complete the *Club Membership Application* in this newsletter and return it along with your payment to North Dakota Sportfishing Congress, P.O. Box 2472, Bismarck, ND 58502.

<u>NOTE</u>: Don't forget to list the names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of the club delegates.

Individual Member's dues are a minimum of \$5. Please complete the *Individual Membership Application* in this newsletter and return it along with your payment to the same address indicated above.

You will note there is a checkoff for payment of multiple years' dues for individual members. For convenience, an individual may choose to prepay several years' dues at one time.

NOTE

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please email Marie Hoerner at sportfishing@bis.midco.net with a <u>Subject</u> of "*Sportfishing Newsletter*".

The year/date above your name on the mailing label indicates your membership renewal date. Your support is needed!

	NDIVID	JAL MEMBER	SHIP A	PPLICATION
STROKTHESTING	Name			
CONGRESS				
P.O. Box 2472 Bismarck, ND 58502				
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NORTH DAKOTA		Membership		
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Each Club Member is repre following information on yo			gates. Ple	ase provide the
<u>Delegate 1</u>		Dele	g <u>ate 2</u>	
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Email		Email		

Water Stewardship Awarded To Lynn Schlueter



Lynn Schlueter, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and by the way, Vice President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress is pictured here receiving the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Board's *Water Stewardship Award*. Presenting the award is Mike Tweed of Eddy County, the Board Chair and Jeff Frith of Ramsey County the Board Manager.

Lynn was recognized for his many years of dedicated work in completing the Loma Berm Project designed to prevent the introduction of Carp into the Devils Lake drainage basin. Great job Lynn and thanks from all of us who fish Devils Lake.

R.A.P REPORT ALL POACHERS 1-800-472-2121

This program encourages people to report fish and wildlife violations, remain anonymous if they prefer, and receive monetary rewards for convictions based on their information. Anonymous callers will be given a special code number and are not required to give their name. Rewards range from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the nature and seriousness of the crime. **Call 800-472-2121.** Call this number only to report game and fish violations. Note: If calling from outside North Dakota, the number is (701) 328-9921. The reward fund is supported by private donations. If you wish to donate to the RAP program, tax deductible contributions can be sent to RAP, Box 188, Valley City, ND 58072-0188.

Poachers Steal Your Wildlife – Make the Call!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

