



P.O. Box 2472 • Bismarck, ND 58502 • www.ndsportfishingcongress.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Clark Williams



As I end my term as President of the NDSFC, I would like to thank you for your support over the past eight years. It has been a great experience and I encourage you to consider becoming involved in the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress as an officer and/or board member.

Your Dues, Your Support, Your Involvement

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress dues are due. For only \$5.00 you can support your only fishing representative with the Legislature, Game and Fish Department, Corps of Engineers and other state and federal entities. If you include your email address with your membership, we will put you on our email tree that will let you know when important issues come up and we can then solicit your opinion to help shape policy that will affect your fishing for years to come.

Annual Board Meeting

The Annual Board Meeting of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress was held at the Mandan Eagles on Saturday, April 5th. Besides club business, the meeting included presentations by Rob Holm, Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, Steve Krenz, US Fish and Wildlife, and Greg Power, ND Game and Fish Fisheries Division Chief. Each member club was invited to

give an updated on their club's activities.

If you are interested in the full text of the meeting it is posted on the Congress Website, ndsportfishingcongress.org

As you can see, this meeting is very informative and is open to all members. We urge you to attend in the future and also attend the fundraiser that follows in the evening. The 2015 Board meeting and Fundraiser will be held Saturday, April 18th at the Bismarck AMVETS.

Elections

Elections were also held at the Annual Board Meeting. Treasurer, Rick Eagleson was reelected. Incumbent Board Members: Paul Haug and Ed Sweeney were reelected. Options to replace President Clark Williams will be left with the Search Committee. Congratulations to all!



L to R: Rob Holm; Steve Krenz; Greg Power

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President..... Clark Williams, Devils Lake (701-662-5008)
- Past President Duaine Ash, Devils Lake (701-662-3989)
- Vice President Ken Cumber, Jamestown (701-252-4534)
- Treasurer Rick Eagleson, Fargo (701-235-6536)
- DirectorsMike 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)
 - Richard Fink, Bismarck (701-223-3093)
 - Paul Haug, Fargo (701-232-0944)
- Jason Kohlman, West Fargo (701-371-9888)
- Ed Sweeney (701-282-6000)
- Exec Secretary ...Marie Hoerner, Bismarck (701-223-8067)

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2014 Sportsmen's Smoker & Raffle

The Congress' 20th annual fundraiser was held Saturday, April 5th at the Bismarck AMVETS. Over 170 supporters attended the banquet and activities. A variety of raffles were held throughout the night and dollars were raised to support the Congress' lobbying efforts and expenses. Highlighting the evening was the following special raffle winners:

Cash Raffle (\$5 tickets)

- \$500 – Marie Anderson, Mandan
- \$250 – Roger Kubik, Bismarck
- \$100 – Travis Terpening, Grants Pass, OR
- \$100 – Ashley Tedrow, New Rockford

\$25 Fundraiser Dinner Ticket

- \$500–Mardell Forster, Bismarck
- \$100 – Larry Schumacher, Mandan
- \$50 – Marlin Schick, Bismarck
- \$50 – Tony Splonskowski, Bismarck



Mardell Forster

Seller of the winning \$500 ticket received \$100 – Roger Kolling, Bismarck

Other Prize Winners

- Spinning Fishing Rod – Duane Schmidt, Bismarck
- Bait Caster Rod – Arlene Volk, Bismarck
- Line Counter Rod – Jim Steinman, Bismarck
- Winchester Gun – Mark Dungeon, Bismarck
- Spotting Scope – Mark Miller, Bismarck
- Go Pro Camera – Mardell Forster, Bismarck

A special "thank you" to all who helped make the fundraiser a success!



Mark Dungeon



Back – Past President Duane Ash; Dave Bement
Front – President Clark Williams and wife, Michelle



Thank you for your support!

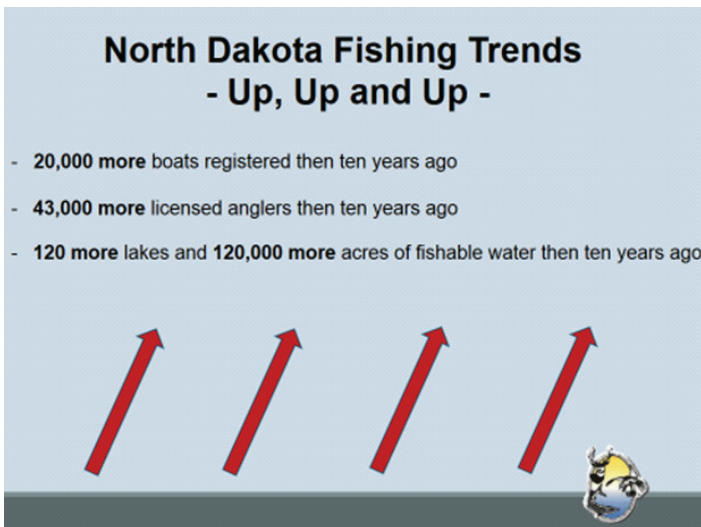




ND GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

by Greg Power – Fisheries Chief

For the past number of years, North Dakota has continued its very impressive trend of providing more and more fishing opportunity. Currently there are nearly 420 fishable lakes compared to less than 170 lakes 25 years ago. As a result of a record number of fishing lakes and aggressive fish management, a historic number of fishing license are being purchased. For the most recent year of license sales data (2012), more than 218,000 fishing licenses were sold, 20 percent higher than the previous record set in 1982. Of this total, 159,500 were resident licenses and nearly 59,000 were nonresident fishing licenses, both records. In terms of actual individuals participating in fishing, 2012-13 was again record-setting with more than 200,000 active anglers and about 2 million days of fishing. Lake Sakakawea, Devils Lake and Lake Oahe/Missouri River remained the top three fisheries in the state. North Dakota continues to be near the top in the country in terms of per capita residents who fish.



Looking ahead to this year's open water fishing, by all accounts angling should be as good as what we've witnessed the past couple of years. Of the 'Big Three', Lake Sakakawea and Devils Lake should again be good to outstanding. Although Lake Oahe/Missouri River still has good numbers of 13-15" walleye, fishing will again be slower compared to the good old days (related to the 2011 flood and loss of the rainbow smelt forage base). What has been and should continue to be first-rate this summer is fishing on our small lakes. With the number of fishing waters in North Dakota at an all-time high (and as long as we don't enter into a significant drought), we should be able to maintain this level at least for the next few

years. Also, don't forget about some of the state's 'other' fish, such as large and smallmouth bass, and channel catfish, as many quality opportunities are available. In what I hope is an interesting sidebar, the following is what has become a near annual update of ongoing spring work activities. This list is the nuts and bolts of what will ultimately continue to provide good fishing opportunity throughout the state (and speaks volumes of the efforts our committed field fisheries staff puts toward the states fishery resources).

Northern pike spawning – similar to last year all of the needed pike eggs were collected during April from Beaver Bay (Oahe) and Rice Lake (Emmons County). The tiny pike are being raised at both Valley City and Garrison Dam national fish hatcheries. By late May, the fingerling size pike should begin to be stocked state-wide. This year's catch at Beaver Bay was particularly impressive for abundant, large (10-20 lb) pike.

Walleye spawning – as of May 1st we've just began this annual ritual. 56 million eggs will need to be collected from Lake Sakakawea (primarily) and Devils Lake to meet all fingerling requests. Healthy fish populations in both lakes should help ensure we meet our needed egg goal. Due to the record number of lakes, there is a continued demand for these planned walleye stockings. Walleye fingerling will be stocked into our lakes in mid/late June.

Missouri River / Lake Oahe walleye tagging – an intensive tagging project continues on the Missouri River and Lake Oahe. North Dakota biologists tagged approximately 4000 walleye between Garrison Dam and the South Dakota border in April (primarily) and early May. South Dakota is completing their tagging of another 6000 fish. This project will continue for two more years.

Trap and transport – as in past years, tons (~7000 lbs in 2014) of yellow perch were trapped and transported from lakes with excess to lakes where needed throughout the state. Staff also transported a number of truck loads of adult channel catfish and northern pike to lakes in need primarily in the western half of the state.

Trout stocking – by the end of May, Department fisheries personnel will have completed our annual stocking of approximately 50 trout lakes scattered across the state.

Winterkills – as expected it appears we'll again have 6-12 lakes in the state that experienced some level of a fishkill this past winter. This is actually less than normal, despite a record number of lakes.

Game & Fish – continued

Game & Fish – continued from Page 3

ANS matters – a grant for public outreach has again been provided to the Friends of Sakakawea; they will be working with the Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce and Voices of Oahe to further the message of ANS prevention. Both intensive and extensive monitoring efforts continued in 2013 resulting in only one new ANS infestation. Enforcement issued 35 ANS citations last year.

Boating Access – pursuing the needed approvals to install new cement ramps at the Yellowstone Confluence, Jasper Lake and Clark Lake. Confluence project alone involves seven different entities, two earlier easements/agreements, and various permitting issues! Designing plans for possible new ramps at Alkaline, Odland, West Lake Napoleon, Sibley Crossing Ashtabula, and Jamestown Reservoir. Installed docks at Sweet Briar, Danzig, Lake Darling, Crooked & White Earth Bay.

Save Our Lakes work – although the ice has just gone off our lakes, agreements with landowners to provide some habitat buffers along various water bodies is going full force. Potential project sites include Beaver Creek, Little Heart, Schlecht-Wiexel, Sheep Creek, Raleigh Reservoir, Odland Dam, and possibly at Hehn-Schaffer and Harmon Lake.

Garrison Dam Spillway Pump (for hatchery ponds) – the 2011 flood breached the former Garrison Dam Spillway Lake thus leaving a large pump used to fill 40 hatchery ponds high and dry. A contractor has been working on a replacement and all work should be completed by mid-May so that the ponds can again be pumped and filled.

As mentioned in the past, it's time to set-aside all those other 'to-do' lists and get out and wet a line. Good luck.

RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB WAHPETON, ND

by Wayne Beyer

30th Annual Vince Herding Youth Fishing Derby

Saturday, May 3rd – Weigh station at Kidder Recreation Area along the Red River in north Wahpeton. Awards and door prizes will be given away. Open hours: 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Many door prizes & trophies for youths. Entry fee: Free.

16th Annual Dick Bell Catfish Tournament

Saturday, June 7th – Tournament headquarters at the Kidder Recreation Area in north Wahpeton. Open hours: 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Entry fee is \$10. Fishermen can use boats or fish from shore. Prizes will be awarded on a 100% payback scale. 10% of the tournament proceeds will be used for Red River development projects at the Kidder Recreation Area. The Red River Area Sportsmen's Club is sponsoring a \$100 cash prize for the largest catfish in the adult division and \$50 cash prize for the largest catfish in the youth division. North Dakota Game & Fish Department fishing regulations will be strictly enforced.

28th Annual Carp & Sucker Derby

Wednesday, August 6th – Instead of disappointment after catching carp and suckers, here's an afternoon devoted to prizes for catching rough fish. Hours: 1-4 PM at the Kidder Recreation Area. Trophies will be awarded for the 10 largest carp or suckers. Open to all youths, high school age or younger. Entry fee: Free.

BIS-MAN REEL AND REC



In North Dakota we are all about enjoying the Spring & Summer camping and fishing season. Our upcoming event schedule looks like this:

Wednesday, May 14: Spring Walleye Derby rules meeting and get-together at the Bismarck-Mandan Elks Lodge. This is a Great social event with raffle drawings throughout the evening. Social begins when you get there, meeting will be at 7:30 pm.

Spring Walleye Derby, Graner's Park. River Frontage and a Great Camping weekend for the whole family.

Friday, May 16: Fish Fry Buffet will be held at Graner Bottoms Park, shelter #1. Fresh Walleye!! Fish are donated by teams pre-fishing for the walleye Derby. Start time approximately 6:30 pm.

Saturday, May 17: Spring Walleye Derby. Come watch the weigh-in, awards ceremony, and listen to the stories of the one that got away.

Take-a-Kid Fishing Day

Saturday, June 7: Sweetbriar Dam shelter #1. This is a fun day for everyone involved. The kids can enjoy fishing, visiting with each other, eating snacks, and playing games. The kids will be able to fish from shore or from volunteer's boats. Everything is provided. The adults can enjoy playing with the kids and sharing proper fishing techniques. For additional info: Jim Steinman, 391-3036.

Note: This event needs volunteers for the many different activities. We need boaters with their own boats. Other people to lead games, serve food, chaperone.



GARRISON DAM/VALLEY CITY NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES UPDATE

Submitted by **Rob Holm, Project Leader**



Dust off your fishing gear and get your boats tuned up, this year is promising to be a good one for North Dakota anglers. Spring has finally showed up with ice going off Lake Sakakawea nearly three weeks earlier than last year. Fish requests are once again challenging the hatchery's production capabilities; over 10 million walleye, 80,000 rainbow trout, 200,000 chinooks, a million pike, 270,000 largemouth bass, 28,000 brown trout, 270,000 crappie, 250,000 sauger, 2,000 muskellunge, 15,000 shovelnose sturgeon and a few thousand each of pallid and lake sturgeon.

A couple major projects are underway at the Garrison Dam NFH. The great flood of 2011 took out our water supply and after a couple years of temporary pumping, the Game and Fish Department has contracted for a permanent replacement of the intake pump vault. On the other end of the hatchery, the Fish and Wildlife Service has contracted out to install a waterline from the west unit pond supply to the east unit to ensure we have an ample supply of water into the future. Partnering with the Game and Fish Department and Corps of Engineers we have also renovated the kids fishing ponds at either hatchery. If all goes as planned you'll have an opportunity this year to take your kids, grandkids or the neighbors kids on a visit either hatchery and spend the rest of the day wetting a line for rainbow trout.

The hatchery is in need of your support. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced in November that it does not intend to close any of the nation's national fish hatcheries in the current fiscal year, but warned that closures may be necessary in 2015 given fiscal uncertainty. The Service released a report examining the challenges facing the Service's National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS), which will serve as the basis of discussions with stakeholders on how best to operate the system in a more sustainable manner while supporting the agency's highest priority, that of listed and imperiled species.

"This report sounds the alarm on a hatchery system unable to meet its mission responsibilities in the current budget climate," said Service Director Dan Ashe. "In the coming months through the 2015 budget process, I have directed the Service to work with all of our partners to determine whether the options identified in the report, or others, are necessary and appropriate to

put the system on a more sustainable financial footing."

The National Fish Hatchery System: Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report outlines the current propagation programs as well as problems associated with sustaining operation of the NFHS in its current configuration, and suggests possible changes to how the system could be managed under several different scenarios. The report identifies the NFHS's focus on the top three of five priorities for fish and aquatic species propagation, including: recovery of species federally listed as threatened or endangered; restoration of imperiled aquatic species; tribal trust responsibilities. The other two propagation programs were focused on recreational fishing and would not be funded by the Service as identified in the report. If recreational stocking programs continue, they will need to be funded by other means.

The Service will use the analysis to engage stakeholders in a discussion of the future of the NFHS. The Service is also working with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration and Tennessee Valley Authority and has put in place agreements to provide reimbursable funds for the operational costs associated with mitigation fish production on streams and rivers impacted by federal water resources projects. Congress supported these steps, in recognition that the Service can no longer fund the production of fish for mitigation of federal water resources projects within its current budget.

The report can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2013/pdf/NFHSReviewCoverPageandReport.pdf>

The appendices can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2013/pdf/NFHSReportAppendices.pdf>

I don't know exactly what the next year will hold for the fish hatchery system, its employees and anglers across the Nation, but I can tell you that challenges lie ahead and it will take a united voice of anglers in support a balanced system that provides jobs, economic output and tremendous returns to the government for every dollar invested. This is not to mention the enjoyable days you and I spend recreational fishing with our family and friends. Let's be ready to speak out!



Friends Take on Busy Agenda

by Terry Fleck, Chairman
www.lakesakakawea.com

The Friends of Lake Sakakawea continues to be a busy organization building on all the lake has to offer. A recent board meeting showed the vast challenges and interests the Friends board undertakes:

1. Rob Holm of the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, described the challenges the hatchery faces in this day and age of tight federal budgets. The Friends of Lake Sakakawea board of directors adopted a resolution to support the Hatchery's efforts with funding, to encourage public-private partnerships to develop new funding sources and to work closely with the state to develop shared priorities that will keep the hatcheries open and thriving.
2. Dave Glott of the North Dakota Health Department's Environmental Services Division assured that Friends that the state is making strides in protecting Lake Sakakawea. Glott and Bob Dundas, the chairman of the Sakakawea Area Spill Response LLC, a consortium of oil companies that share clean up equipment, said each spill is educating the companies on what steps need to be taken. The Friends made a strong point: we certainly hope so or you will incur the wrath of the people.
3. ND Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem described the North Dakota Industrial Commission's efforts to protect "extraordinary places" like Lake Sakakawea. Although the Industrial Commission supports oil development, Stenehjem said the commission is entrusted with no thornier issue than where to place oil rigs. He said he supports the development of oil, but wants to assure the public that attention is being paid to environmental concerns.

We're also:

- Administering a grant for ND Game & Fish to educate the public about Aquatic Nuisance Species,
- Working with our congressional delegation and state leaders about oil development and federal budgetary constraints impacting the Corps' management of recreational areas and the spraying of noxious weeds.
- Preparing to hire a lobbyist for the 2015 Legislature. We'll be front and center advocating for your interests.
- Sending the regular E-Newsletter, which some members consider one of the best parts of being a member. We keep you informed!

For more information about the Friends and about becoming a member, go to www.lakesakakawea.com.



2014 Calendar of Events

CLUB MEETINGS

(All Vets Club 7:00pm. Remember there will be a drawing from members present at each meeting for \$20.)

- August 13th
- November 12th

TOURNAMENTS

- **May 17th & 18th** – 38th Annual Dakota Anglers Wall-eye/Northern Tournament at Jamestown Reservoir. To obtain tournament applications, call Kay Herrick at 701-252-8451 or email ckherrick@gmail.com
- **June 7th** – Little Britches Tournament open to all kids ages 0-16 (with adult partner) at Jamestown Reservoir. (Free fishing weekend)

SUMMER OUTINGS

- **June 21st** – Fish Fry at Spiritwood Lake
- **July 12th** – Pork Roast at Boat Club Bay, Jamestown Reservoir
- **August 9th** – Pelican Point Campground, Jamestown Reservoir (Pelican Point Campground)



Tyler Elshaug

The Ronald D. Liudahl Endowment for Undergraduate Students in Wildlife Management and Fisheries Biology Fisheries Biology 2014 scholarship for \$900 was awarded to Tyler Elshaug from Devils Lake, ND. Tyler is an avid hunter and fisherman and an advocate for the preservation and conservation of habitat for wildlife and fisheries. Tyler is graduating in May from Dakota College in Bottineau, ND with an Associates Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. Tyler will be continuing his education by pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries at the University of ND in Grand Forks, ND.

The scholarship was established in memory of Ron Liudahl by the Liudahl family and the Dakota Anglers. The scholarship was set up to provide some financial aid to undergraduate students entering into the fields of wildlife management and / or fisheries biology. This scholarship is awarded annually; the deadline for applying for this scholarship is April 1st.

Contributions or memorials to the North Dakota Community Foundation for the Ronald D. Liudahl Scholarship are tax deductible. Contributions may be made online at www.ndcf.net or by mailing to North Dakota Community Foundation (specifying the Liudahl scholarship) at PO Box 387, Bismarck ND 58502-0387.

Information about the criteria for the scholarship may be found on-line at www.ndcf.net/Scholarships/RonLiudahlApplication.asp

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.

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 2014-15, please complete the *Club Membership Application* below and return it, along with your payment to North Dakota Sportfishing Congress, P.O. Box 2472, Bismarck, ND 58502.

NOTE: 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* below 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 know of other individuals who would like to receive the newsletter via email, please provide their email address to Marie Hoerner at sportfishing@bis.midco.net with a Subject of "*Sportfishing Newsletter*".



P.O. Box 2472
Bismarck, ND 58502

- \$5 - 1 Year
- \$15 - 3 Years
- \$25 - 5 Years

Enclosed: \$ _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) ____ - ____ Email _____
 Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____
 Club Affiliation _____
 I would like to receive the newsletter via email. *(please check if applicable)*



P.O. Box 2472
Bismarck, ND 58502

- \$50 - 1 Year

CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Club Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Current President _____
 Phone (____) ____ - ____ Email _____
 Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Date Paid ____ / ____ / ____

Each Club Member is represented on the Executive Board by two delegates. Please provide the following information on your current delegates:

Delegate 1

Delegate 2

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone (____) - ____ - _____
 Email _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone (____) - ____ - _____
 Email _____