



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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Duaine Ash



Where has the summer gone? Seems just like yesterday that I was waiting for spring and now ice fishing season is just around the corner. But before that happens we have a very important event coming up – that's right, we have an election in November. As sport persons of North Dakota, it is our duty/responsibility to elect individuals that want nothing but the best for our natural resources of North Dakota. What needs to be done is to have clubs hold Sportsmen's Forums across the state to ask the candidates the tough questions that need answering. We have the power to elect the candidates that have our interests at heart.

We, NDSFC and ND Wildlife Federation, are willing to help clubs with guidelines to follow and suggestions on questions to ask the candidates. Feel free to contact us and we'll be glad to assist you. We would appreciate each club sending the candidates a list of the questions which they need to answer prior to the forums. If you are not able to hold a forum in your area, have the candidates fill out the questionnaire and send them back to your club. If the candidate does not respond, it will indicate to the sportsmen of ND that they do not hold the interests of the fish and wildlife as a priority. **We have the power at the poll in November**

to vote in the candidates that support the interests of natural resources of North Dakota. If the clubs would e-mail or send a copy of responses to sportfishing@bis.midco.net or mail them to 311 Laredo Drive, Bismarck, ND 58504, we will post the results to our web site (www.ndsportfishingcongress.org). So please check our web often!!!



Boy, aren't we lucky to be living in this great state? It seems like every time we could catch as many fish as we wanted. With a large part of the state in drought conditions, some lakes could be gone in the next few years; we will have less lakes to fish in the coming years. There is more pressure on our resource from visiting fishermen, more tournaments held on just a few lakes and lakes' habitats declining as they get older. Our lakes can only produce so much fish to be shared with all the users. The fishing guide contains the daily bag limits and possession limits for fish; it is very important that fishermen read this information. When people over-limit or double dip, that is someone taking more than their fair share, it hurts the other honest anglers and the resource. If we, you and I, report those dishonest fishermen, the fishing resource will benefit. If we, people who care about the fishing, don't help the enforcement by reporting violations when we see them and be willing to go to court if needed, we are not only hurting the resource, but we are just as guilty as those breaking the law.

In closing, get out and enjoy our great outdoors. Remember to take a kid fishing; the kids are our future!!!

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NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT PERSPECTIVES

by Greg Power



With a rather slow winter of fishing this past season, many questioned what kind of fishing would welcome anglers this summer. Thankfully for most, North Dakota offered some wonderful fishing and catching (!) opportunities. The traditional large walleye fisheries were outstanding. The spring walleye fishing on the Missouri River was probably the best we've experienced in nearly a decade (nearly 100,000 walleye were harvested through the end of June!). Gizzard shad (a warmwater forage species) is directly responsible for a significant increase in the condition of Missouri River walleye. Despite near record low lake levels, Lake Sakakawea has experienced one of its best summers ever in terms of both walleye catch and harvest. Through the end of July, more than 700,000 walleye have been caught and approximately 450,000 walleye harvested by anglers. Larger walleye have been more difficult to catch as growth rates and condition of walleye have declined due to the low lake level and the corresponding reduction in the rainbow smelt population. And lastly Devils Lake experienced yet another outstanding summer of walleye and even pike fishing. Although we don't have numbers, we expect the harvest in 2006 to be similar to the past few years.

Although these three fisheries receive a lot of angler attention in North Dakota, some excellent fishing was found in many smaller water bodies this summer. Jamestown Reservoir, Fish Creek, Antelope Lake, Stump Lake and Northgate Dam are but a few water bodies that provided a lot of excitement for anglers.

We did experience more than normal summer kills at lakes scattered across the state. That should come as no surprise given the hot/dry summer most of North Dakota just experienced perhaps 'winter' will bring some relief. However, even though a strong winter snowpack coupled with good runoff next spring would bring some of that 'relief', a long snowy winter would likely lead to more winterkill lakes.

In the end, it really doesn't matter what we would like to see as Mother Nature will once again dictate where we'll sit come next spring. If you've lived in North Dakota most or all of your lives and like to fish, you've come to learn the virtue of humility!!! What Mother Nature gives, she can take away in short order. Nonetheless, both the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the angling public need to continue to address a multitude of challenges so we can attempt to protect and/or improve roughly 300 fishing water bodies. Some of the more important challenges I foresee in the next few years include the following:

✓ Water Quantity – maintaining sufficient water in our fishing lakes when there are competitive uses for that water will likely become an increasing challenge. Demand for water, especially in the western half of North Dakota will follow trends observed in other western states and unfortunately, the Depart-

ment doesn't have a good mechanism and/or legal authority to protect many of our fisheries. Protecting the public's water for fishing needs to be a high priority.

- ✓ Water Quality – our five-year-old Save Our Lakes (SOL) program has helped in a number of lakes across the state. The SOL program continues to slowly grow (especially finding other financial partners) in an attempt to meet these challenges. However, the task is daunting as all land use practices will continue to affect the water entering our lakes.
- ✓ Clean Bait – for the past fifteen years, a great effort has been put forth by the Department in an effort to educate both the angler and the bait vendor concerning the potential impacts of 'dirty' bait. Although this effort has paid great dividends, it too will be an endless challenge due to both angler and vendor complacency and turnover.
- ✓ ANS – laws were enacted in the past legislative session and the governor has approved North Dakota's ANS plan/program. In the days and months to come, rules and regulations will be developed to lessen the chances of introduction of ANS into State waters. Again, education will remain the foundation of ANS.
- ✓ Public access to public resources – for many and varied reasons, 'true' public access, especially shore fishing opportunities, are slowly dwindling. Both internal mandates and external pressures have caused numerous government agencies to tightly regulate shoreline access. Since most current anglers received their first exposure to 'fishing' via some type of shore experience, a strong need continues to exist to bring some common sense to this issue.
- ✓ Maintaining the state-federal hatchery partnership – although there are no immediate threats, maintaining the fantastic working relationship between the Garrison and Valley City National Fish Hatcheries and the Department will likely become a challenge as federal budgets dwindle and priorities shift.

These challenges and priorities outlined above are but a few of many. It will need to be a group effort by all to provide the needed protection in order to ensure the long-term well-being of the wonderful fishing opportunities that exist in North Dakota.

As always, find some time and prioritize a trip to your favorite 'fishing' hole. Ample opportunities await you – get out there and experience it ... and take a family member and/or a friend. Happy angling!!!

RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB UPDATE

by Wayne Beyer

The Red River Area Sportsmen's Club of Richland County, ND and Wilkin County, MN enjoyed a busy fishing year.



The Youth Ice-Fishing Derby at Heitkamp Pond north of Wahpeton was held in early February, later than previous years because of thin ice conditions during much of January. Over 150 children

participated and there were good catch-and-release numbers, including crappies, walleyes and a whopper smallmouth bass. Credit for this successful event goes to Heitkamp Construction, who provides free food, beverages, bait and door prizes for every contestant.

The Youth Fishing Derby held for over 20 years on the first Saturday in May attracted over 115 girls and boys. It is amazing the number of different fish that come out of the Red River – this year 11 species (carp, catfish, drum, goldeye, northern pike, rock bass, redhorse sucker, smallmouth bass, walleyes, white bass and white suckers).

There are additional species that have been caught over the years, too - never know what you're going to pull up. We see lots of mothers and fathers fishing with their children during this tournament and it's great to see families enjoying quality time together.

A fishing tournament was sponsored during the ND Firefighters Conference. The Great Bend and Fairmount Fire Departments co-sponsored the event with our club. We often work together with other organizations to form effective partnerships. The firefighters enjoyed shorefishing and delicious shore lunches.

A Catfish Tournament was held during Carousel Days, a local event organized by the Chahinkapa Zoo Association and Chamber of Commerce. Catfish are a little smaller towards the headwaters of the Red River but normally there are fish caught approaching double digit pounds. There is both a cash division and youth division. Our club often participates with civic-minded events.

The club annually sponsors a Carp & Sucker Derby, where only these rubber-lipped fish are eligible for prizes. We encourage area fishermen to enjoy the great fight put up by carp and the different ways to catch them, including fly fishing and with bows and arrows.

The Sportsmen's Club also sponsors prizes for other fishing derbies in the area, including the Silver Lake Ice-Fishing Derby, Long Lake (MN) Youth Fishing Derby, Lake Elsie Ice-Fishing Derby and

Lake Tewaukon Spring Fishing Derby, to name some. A kid is a kid is a kid, and multi-club events only make the fishing experience that much more successful.

Fishing on the Red River is a destination for out-of-state fishermen from Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, to name a few. Tourism is a large industry, and we're pleased that our non-resident guests enjoy the boat ramp, fishing piers and fish cleaning stations supported by the Red River Area Sportsmen's Club. This year, we sponsored a fishing pier in south Wahpeton along the Bois de Sioux River. One of the benefits of flood protection projects up-and-down the Red River Valley has been the resulting greenway and considerable more public access to a terrific natural resource – the Red River.

Club members are working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to develop public access on the Ottertail River east of Breckenridge. There is some fantastic fishing on the Ottertail, and some say the smallmouth bass fishing is some of the best they've ever experienced.

Although Mooreton Lake has experienced its up-and-downs, the Red River Area Sportsmen's Club remains active with its fishing facilities, including fishing piers, boat ramp, water testing, shoreline fishing development, etc.

Five boys were given scholarships to attend the ND Wildlife Federation Camp on Lake Sakakawea. They had a super time and all indicated they'd like to attend again. The rod-and-reel loaner program in partnership with the ND Game & Fish Department has also proven to be very successful. Youth groups like 4H, Boy & Girl Scouts and after-school programs are frequent users. The equipment is also offered during the youth fishing derbies for those without rods & reels and tackle. The reels are switched from long rods during summer months to short rods for ice-fishing in the winter.

Efforts to promote the Red River as a readily accessible local fishing resource appear to be working. It gives club members a good feeling when they see a youngster on a bicycle with a rod and reel over a shoulder and a landing net and tackle box balanced on the handle bars en route to a favorite river fishing hotspot. Maybe not the safest way to ride a bike but spurs memories of when we were river rats, too.

The Hunters Smoker is scheduled on Friday, October 27th from 7-11 PM at the Eagles Club in Wahpeton. This is the club's major fund-raiser and proceeds help benefit the various fishing opportunities provided during the year.

The Youth Ice-Fishing Derby is scheduled at Heitkamp Pond on Saturday, January 6th and next summer's events are scheduled again, too. We're committed to continue offering the great sport of fishing to youths in southeastern North Dakota and west-central Minnesota.

NOTHING NEW IS GOOD NEWS

by LR Schlueter

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department searched in numerous lakes and reservoirs this summer for aquatic nuisance species (ANS) infestations. ANS are those invasive nuisance species which ruin fishing, boating, and hunt opportunities. A special Fisheries crew did multiple samples at multiple sites on over 50 waters and the Missouri River system and Devils Lake to determine if ANS was present. In addition, regional Fisheries' field crews looked for ANS in another 25 lakes. The outcome was – NO new ANS infestations were found.

Known ANS infestations were also monitored. Curlyleaf pondweed is well established in the lower reaches of the Missouri River and McDowell Reservoir. There are spotty patches of Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed in the Sheyenne River near Valley City. To eliminate an infestation, drastic steps are needed to prevent the infestation from spreading to other waters. Dead Colt Creek Reservoir's water level was dropped 10 feet last winter to freeze out Eurasian watermilfoil. An unheard of action for a prairie state which normally short of water, but it is still too early to tell if this was a totally successful in eliminating this ANS infestation.

This summer's work shows that many of North Dakota's waters are not ANS infested, the need to protect them for problems still exist. If we don't do the right thing now, we will have – less fish to catch, not as many ducks, and weed cluttering the surface of our waters. The problem can show up in our wallets as power companies and municipal water plants have to charge more to cover additional expenses of O/M from ANS infestations.

Prevention is cheaper and simpler than attempting to contain an infestation. The steps in prevention take only a couple of minutes to do when leaving a lake and a couple more when you get home. A quick review of prevention protocols is:

- ✓ Remove all vegetation on the boat, the motor, trailer and other equipment before leaving the boat ramp.
- ✓ Drain all water from the livewells, bilge, or other confined areas at the boat ramp.
- ✓ Disinfect and powerwash the boat/trailer at a carwash before launching the boat again.
- ✓ Don't dump bait overboard.
- ✓ Clean off duck decoys, anchor lines, and duckboats.

The little time it takes to prevent ANS can mean a lifetime of enjoyment of fishing, duck hunting, boating, and cheaper household bills.

Contact your local North Dakota Game and Fish Department for additional information.

UPDATE

Ron Kraft

Lake Oahe Boat Ramp Chairman



I was asked to attend the July Burleigh County Park Board meeting to represent Bis-Man Reel & Rec club to ask the park board to consider naming the new boat ramp located at Misty Waters subdivision to Kniefel Landing after long time Burleigh County Commissioner Bob Kniefel who was instrumental in developing ramps in Burleigh County. After a short discussion, motion made to name ramp to Kniefel Landing was on the floor, motion passed. Kniefel Landing is now paved and ready for use.

Saturday, August 5, 2006 I represented Reel and Rec Club at the mid-summer meeting of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress held at the home of Duaine and Barb Ash in Devils Lake. Each club gave a short update on their projects. I asked if other clubs had experienced any problems with their insurance in regards to liability covering volunteer's. No club had any problems at this time. I mentioned we are not happy about our insurance policy and was looking for a new one; asked for referrals of different insurance company names, but they could not remember names. I mentioned if it would come to mind later, to e-mail company names to me.

Also at the meeting were Terry Steinwand and Greg Power of NDGF. They discussed topics on ANS, the carp and outlet issues on Devils Lake, Missouri River Levels and smelt in the river system.

NDSFC asked Duaine Ash to be its lobbyist for the '07 legislative session. Yes, he did accept.

A search committee for a new President was formed and I'm on the committee. Anyone with ideas and names, please e-mail or phone me – rk9977@msn.com, work # 223-1834.

A big THANK YOU to Duaine and Barb Ash for hosting the meeting and the food, especially the salmon they caught at the Great Lakes the week before.

I met Hadely Seeklander who is the head of the Good Sam's Club from Hazelton on 8-17-06. They donate their time and energy as care givers to the Hazelton Recreation Area, painting tables and maintenance of the camping area. They are in the process of bringing electricity to the Hazelton recreation camping pads, through moneys from the CORP.

Traveled to Garrison on 8/24/06 for the meeting called by Governor Hoeven, about the water releases from the dam and record low water on Lake Oahe and Sak. The CORP was present but the South Dakota CORP delegation was not invited was the response I got from Larry Cieslik Northwest Division CORP to my question as to where are they??

I would like to see another meeting about Oahe and Sak. here in Bismarck just in time when the PWT is here fishing the river and Lake Oahe for their championship on 10/13-14-15-/06.

GARRISON DAM NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES

by Rob Holm



This year's hatchery report is shaping up to look a lot like last year's. Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery set another fish production record – last year we produced a record number of walleye at 10 million. This year we broke the walleye weight record – 6,860 pounds. That's 8.7 million one and a half inch long fish. As long as I'm throwing out numbers, over the past ten years, this hatchery has produced over 72 million walleye. So for all you fishermen complaining about those 14 inch fish taking your crawlers, you know where those fish came from! If you are a trout angler you might have also noticed that the rainbows stocked out this year were a little larger than in the past — broke that record as well. And if you remember this past Spring I was telling you the ND Game and Fish Department had put in a huge request for perch stockings in Devils Lake – we exceeded that request with over a million fish stocked into both Devils Lake and Lake Darling. Time to clean out the ice houses and pack the wheel bearings!

If you have the opportunity, write a note of thanks to Senator Dorgan for his support of the hatchery. Over the past four years the Senator has provided a million dollars to the hatchery to renovate its leaky walleye ponds with plastic liners. The result has been an increase of over a million walleye, pike and perch annually. This year he has included an additional \$300,000 to our annual appropriations for more liners. If we can get the amendment through the House later this fall it may show up as another walleye in the live well in a couple years. Seriously though, without this funding our ability to meet the stocking needs across the state would be limited.

Enjoy the fall weather and fishing opportunities and stop by the hatchery if you are up fishing the big lake.

BARNES COUNTY WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Don Baasch

January 7th - ice fishing derby at Sibley, Lake Ashtabula.

April is the tree reef project. Each year at this time we use discarded Christmas trees to form reefs at different parts of the lake. This is to try to enhance perch spawning areas.

June sees the annual "Take a Kid Fishing" day with kids not only fishing, but taking part in several mini-seminars and a casting contest. This is held in conjunction with other organizations that provide rides, prizes, meals and help with the seminars.

June 10th and 11th was the date for the summer walleye tournament. This involved 80 teams this year with prizes for walleye, northern and pounds of bullheads. The Lake Users Association helps with the weigh-in.

The club worked with the Corps of Engineers to provide another handicap accessible fishing pier. This year, it's at Eggert's Landing. Also this year, with the cooperation of the Fingal Wildlife Club, the Kathryn Dam site was enhanced with a walk bridge, rest room, steps and parking lot. The Kathryn Dam is located on the Sheyenne River along the National Scenic Byway system, which also has an interpretive panel and historic site in this area.

The club also sponsors interested youth to summer wildlife and fishing camps.

BCWF has a Junior Naturalist Club that meets every month of the school year to learn more about the outdoors and includes several fishing seminars.

GREAT PLANERS TROUT & SALMON CLUB

Wow, where did summer 2006 go? Another year of club activities for the Great Planers Trout & Salmon Club is in the books.

Overall I guess it was a pretty good summer for Salmon fishing, of course wishing the fish would have been bigger and more of them. You can't trade time at the lake with good friends and good food for anything.

We had our 20th Annual Great Planers Trout & Salmon Derby on August 26th with mixed results. There were a total of 86 fish weighed in and a total weight of 334# the only downside was that of the fish weighed in they averaged 3.38#.

So the fish are coming in much smaller than we would like to see but a lot of fish stories and fun was had by all with 55 teams registered.

A few of us were chatting about the future of our club and salmon fishing at Lake Sakakawea as most everyone knows with out the cold water habitat and the smelt population the Salmon will suffer and so will the future of our club.

We all agreed that it will come back someday, but in the mean time we would like to continue to do our club outings and other activities because of the great company and fun times we have had together.

Now our thoughts turn to fall hunting and then winter activities so I am hoping everyone has a safe and successful season.

Until next summer as they say let the good times roll!!!!

JUST FUN (on the water)
Lugene Gerber
Newsletter Editor

**LAKE REGION ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
DEVILS LAKE, ND**

by Clark Williams

Lake Region Anglers Association, in conjunction with the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress and the North Dakota Wildlife Federation, is sponsoring a Devils Lake Area Sportsmen’s Legislative Forum on Monday, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial Building in Devils Lake. Other regional sportsmen’s organizations are also being invited to participate.

The purpose of the Forum is to allow candidates for State Legislature, County Commissioner and city offices to address their positions on statewide, regional and local issues important to fishing, hunting and outdoor interests.

The Forum will include previously submitted questions as well as questions from the general public and will be moderated by Don Baasch from the Barnes County Wildlife Club. The press and other mass media will also be in attendance.

If you are not sure which candidates are in your legislative district, go to the North Dakota Secretary of State web site for the 2006 primary election results – <http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/> (then click on “election results”; then “2006 primary election”.



REMINDER: Please submit your club’s updates to your page on the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress web site. Email the changes to: sportfishing@bis.midco.net



FM Walleyes Unlimited Inc. has announced its seasonal speaker line up. All meetings start at 7:00 and are held at the Doublewood n, Fargo, ND.

All meetings (except annual meeting) are open to the public free of charge. For more information. please contact Chad Maloy, President at 701-293-2491 or chadmaloy@gatecitybank.com.

- Sept. 21 Ottertail Guide–Tom Johnson
- Oct. 19 Retired Game Warden–Tom Chapin.
Author of Poachers Caught!: Adventures of a Northwoods Game Warden.
- Nov. 16..... Ice Fishing Legend–Dave Genz
- Jan. 18 PWT/FLW Walleye Ranger Pro- Jimmy Bell
- Feb. 15 Annual Meeting with guest speakers Tom Backer & Dave Randash
- March ?? ... Anglers Night Out–speaker/date TBA later
- April 19 Rapala Lures Rep

**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/pubs/>

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., 04/07.)

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 2006-07, 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.

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* 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 Subject of "Sportfishing Newsletter".

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



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 _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Phone (____)____-____-____

Phone (____)____-____-____

Email _____

Email _____

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