



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

Volume 3

May 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Duaine Ash

What a great past four years I have had being the president of the NDSFC. The support and cooperation from the board of directors, club delegates and members at large have been outstanding and I just cannot express my appreciation to everyone for that support. Without your help our organization wouldn't be what it is today. I was fortunate to be re-elected to my third term as your president and I am looking forward to serving the NDSFC to the best of my ability. One of my goals for the coming two years is to get more people involved with Congress. I am sure that each of us knows of a person that we could ask to join us at our next meeting and maybe they would like to get involved. I for one can tell you that you will meet a lot of good people from throughout the state that have nothing but what is best for the fisheries of ND.



I would like to thank everyone that made an effort to attend our annual meeting and fundraiser on April 12. We had five great speakers that gave us their outlook on Lake Sak at our annual meeting. Some of the topics covered were: lake access for coming year, lake elevations, noxious weed (saltcedar), pending lawsuits, endangered species and fishery issues.

We had two individuals, Vice-President Richard Brueckner, Fargo and Director John Haskins, Williston, decided to step down from their positions. These two individuals have been long time supporters and their presence is going to be missed. So 'THANK YOU' for their many years of work with the Congress.

Next, we would like to welcome two new board members, Brian Ficek, Dickinson and Richard Fink, Harvey. Richard will be moving to Bismarck this summer. Both of these men have been long time supporters and we will be looking forward to working with them.

Lastly, I would like to 'thank' all of you that attended our annual fundraiser. Without your continued support, we would not be able to fund our activities. And to the individuals that organized, sold the tickets and whatever else needed to be done. 'THANK YOU!'

Let's get out and enjoy our great outdoors; I think that most people do not realize the opportunities we have in North Dakota.

GAME AND FISH PERSPECTIVES

by Terry Steinwand



As I write this article in early May we just completed the walleye spawning season. There was some early concern that it could be a tough season for collecting eggs, particularly in the Lake Sakakawea area because of low water levels. As usual, however, the spawning crews on Lake Sakakawea and Devils Lake have come through with flying colors. We exceeded our goal of 38.8 million eggs. We could actually collect more and will on the lower end of Sakakawea if there's a need. This is a tribute to their skills, tenacity and genuine love for the job they perform. We had no problem collecting northern pike eggs with the majority coming from Lake Ashtabula and taken by the Jamestown crew. As a point of information, our goals for 2003 were to obtain approximately 15 million pike eggs and a little over 38 million walleye eggs. We accomplished those goals with the ultimate endpoint being sufficient fish to stock in North Dakota waters for all citizens to enjoy.

We've rapidly moved into the open water fishing season and I've heard some reports of good fishing and some of not so good fishing. I wish I could give a personal report but other activities and commitments have kept me on the run for the most part. As usual, the Missouri River outside of Bismarck-Mandan is one of the first fisheries to provide some activity. Fishing hasn't necessarily been the best on record but there

GAME & FISH — CONTINUE ON PAGE 3

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Duaine Ash, Devils Lake (701-662-3989)
 Past President Bruce Hagen, Devils Lake (701-739-8689)
 Vice President Paul Kriege, Dickinson (701-483-0479)
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 Exec. Secretary .. Marie Hoerner, Bismarck (701-223-8067)

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NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS – 2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



We monitored a variety of bills this session. Here is a recap of the major bills and resolutions we were involved in!

SB 2419 – *Relating to penalties for violating injunctive orders preventing Clean Water Act violations, to clarify the state's authority to seek injunctive relief against governmental entities that violate water quality standards of the state, and authority of the state to protect water quality from degradation; to provide a penalty; declare an emergency.*

NDSFC supported this bill. This bill passed with flying colors. This should help our water levels.

HB 1358 – *Relating to nonresident hunting and fishing licenses and fees; to provide an appropriation; to provide a statement of legislative intent with respect to a short-term lease program; and to provide an effective date.*

NDSFC supported this bill as long as the increased fees helped the fishing needs and not put to general use! It passed with the amendment needed.

HCR 3040 – *A concurrent resolution urging the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Army, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to adopt and implement an updated Missouri River Master Water Control Manual that gives fair consideration to the substantial recreation values present on Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe, and the Missouri River in North Dakota.*

NDSFC supported this bill. This resolution had no opposition.

HRC 3041 – *A concurrent resolution urging the President of the United States, Secretary of the Army, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to improve, rehabilitate, and repair visitor facilities, event sites, and other areas within their jurisdiction in North Dakota expected to experience significant increases in visitation*

as a result of the bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

NDSFC supported this resolution. It also had no opposition.

SB 2273 – *Relating to the designation of trout lakes.*

NDSFC did not support. Before this bill got off the ground, the Game and Fish Department met with the trout enthusiasts and came to some what of an agreement to walk together to enhance quality trout lakes. We didn't want to set precedence to one species!

HB 1465 – *Relating to a game and fish commission.*

NDSFC opposed this bill. The system didn't seem to be broken.

HB 1196 – *Relating to elimination of optional contributions on income tax returns for the nongame wildlife fund and trees for North Dakota program trust fund; and to provide an effective date.*

NDSFC opposed this bill. This is the only way a non sporting enthusiast can contribute. So it was a great way to get some revenue.

HB 1224 – *Relating to the use of boats to take or retrieve waterfowl.*

NDSFC stayed neutral. This bill did not want to hinder fishing. It related to scaring waterfowl from resting areas.

Everything seemed to go well. No major upsets or concerns. It was very interesting and I learned a lot on what actually takes place during a session. We were not faced with any major battles, unlike the hunting side of things. I had the opportunity to sit in some of the hunting discussions and gained more insight. So if a battle would of arisen, I would have been ready, and had more background to work with!

Thank you for your support!!

Tom Abrahamson

BARNES COUNTY WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Jill Christensen

Barnes County Wildlife Federation is busy as a beehive with a 700 county membership! Among the many wildlife, habitat and youth projects throughout the year, we also have a focus on fishing!

The club sponsors area youth to outdoor and fish camps and hosts a "Take-A-Kid-Fishing-Day" each year.

Current projects: The 10 mile stretch of meandering River Road from Valley City to Baldhill Dam will get its annual adopt-a-road clean up and our 10th tree reef will be installed at Lake Ashtabula. We will also be pouring two cement pads for handicap access at the restroom facilities. Valley City has two lowhead dams that are heavily ripped for erosion control so we are pleased to be able to develop an access with steps and picnic area just below the Little Dam.

Our annual Summer Walleye Tournament will be June 21-22 at Kelly's Crossing. (Sorry, it is filled) and we plan for a new fishing dock and hopefully a swimming beach at Clausen Springs. We also hold a Bullhead Derby (Family Fun) and an Ice Fishing Derby.

Past accomplishments: Dock and boat ramp at Chautauqua Park; dock & picnic area at Moon Lake; picnic area and two canoe accesses at Faust Park; and a graveled parking area at Kathryn Dam. We've also helped install two handicap accessible fishing docks and three state-of-the-art fish cleaning stations at Lake Ashtabula. We have participated in a 3-year Walleye Tagging/Study and Bullhead Tagging. A surprising amount of bullhead tags were found in Pelican nests at Chase Lake – 80 miles west (as the Pelican flies) of Lake Ashtabula!

We express appreciation to our volunteer members, NDG&F, USCOE, USF&W and our city and county for their cooperation in making all these projects successful!

FINAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Bill Butcher

Lobbyists for Friends of Lake Sakakawea



The 2003 legislative session is completed and there were several bills dealt with by legislators that affect the Friends group. Here is a rundown of the various bills that were worked during the session.

Probably the passage of SB 2337 will have the greatest financial impact on recreation and businesses on and around Lake Sakakawea. This bill imposes an additional 1% lodging sales tax on hotels and motels throughout North Dakota for the purpose of defraying the expenses of out-of-state marketing relating to the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration. This tax, which will not be imposed upon bed and breakfast accommodations, is expected to increase the Tourism budget by \$2.9 million for the biennium beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2005. The debate over the bill was highly contentious in both legislative chambers, passing the House by a vote of 48 to 45 and passing the Senate first by 25 to 20 and then, upon reconsideration, by 24 to 23. Albeit by only one vote, the bill did pass and the Governor signed it into law on April 14. Another bill sliced \$200,000 out of the Tourism budget, but this \$2.9 million shot in the arm more than makes up for the cut.

Two House concurrent resolutions, HCR 3040 and HCR 3041, were written in a collaborative effort between the Friends of Lake Sakakawea, ND Parks & Recreation and the ND Water Commission. HCR 3040 urges the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Army to require the US Army Corps of Engineers to upgrade their Missouri River Master Water Control Manual so as to give fair consideration to the substantial recreation values present on Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe and the Missouri River in North Dakota. HCR 3041 urges the President and Secretary of the Army to require the Corps to improve, rehabilitate and repair visitor facilities, event sites and other areas within their jurisdiction in North Dakota that are expected to experience significant increases in visitation as a result of the bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Friends member and State Representative John Warner of Ryder was the prime sponsor of both bills and did a great job of shepherding them through to unanimous passage in both chambers. Both resolutions have been forwarded to the ND Secretary of State for transmittal to the President and Secretary of the Army.

On April 28, ND Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers using ND's Clean Water Act to force the Corps to store more water in Lake Sakakawea. SB 2419, which passed both chambers of the legislature unanimously and became effective March 27th under an emergency clause when the Governor signed the bill into law, gave the State the authority to fine both the Corps and individual employees of the Corps \$25,000 per day for adversely impacting the State's water quality standards by allowing the water pool on Lake Sakakawea to drop below 1825 feet above sea level. That is the level below which the smelt will be killed off, thus depriving sport fish of their food supply. Passage of the bill gave real teeth to the State's effort to stop the Corps from excessive releases of water through Garrison Dam to the detriment of our \$84 million lake recreational business interests.

A major overhaul of hunting and fishing license fees was brought about by passage of HB 1358 into law. The Friends

testified on the bill; not to oppose the increases but to insure that the proceeds from fee increases for nonresident fishing licenses were designated for the purpose of upgrading the fisheries. The bill originally stated that these fees were to be used "to improve habitat." As a result, the bill was amended in a manner appropriate to the interests of fishermen and women, and hence in the best interests of the Friends.

The ND Parks & Recreation budget bill, SB 2021, saw cuts in funding, as did all other state budgets, because of revenue shortfalls, but Parks Director Doug Prchal remains confident that visitors will not see any reduction in services or facilities. Like all agencies they lost 5% due to consolidation of information technology services, and there was \$45,000, or about 10%, taken out of their general fund funding for park repairs. Capital construction and park operations have always been paid for by generated revenues (read "entrance fees"), and now capital repairs will also have to come out of generated revenues instead of the general fund as they have before. As a result, the daily vehicle pass will increase from \$4 to \$5 immediately, but season passes will stay at \$25. Parks will now operate at a 92% general fund budget, but Prchal hopes to see the department partner up with groups like the Friends of Lake Sakakawea to accomplish some needed projects. Generated revenues during the summer vary, of course, depending upon things like lake water levels, weather and gas prices. Prchal sees no problems with lake access on the east end of the lake this summer. The ramp at Sakakawea State Park goes down to 1805 feet above sea level, so there should be good access both there and on the west ramp at Fort Stevenson State Park. He does project that Lewis & Clark State Park near Williston will lose lake access late in the season.

All in all, the Friends of Lake Sakakawea had an outstanding 2003 legislative session. A big thanks goes out to Friends members Lee Klapprodt, Jill Gackle Denning, Jude Iverson, Mike Quinn, Duaine Ash, Terry Fleck and all the others who testified on bills and gave moral support to our lobbying efforts, and a special thanks to Representative John Warner for sponsoring our bills!

GAME AND FISH – CONTINUE FROM PAGE 1

have been reports of better than average fishing. Of course, access to the river is the largest challenge at this time. I didn't mention Lake Oahe because we basically no longer have any part of Lake Oahe in North Dakota because of low runoff and releases from the river. There will be little or no access below Ft. Rice unless we get some more water into the system. Biologically, this means at least another years delay in getting that fishery into more normal condition because we will likely have a marginal smelt spawn in Lake Oahe once again this year.

Although Lake Sakakawea is a few weeks away from it's routine good fishing activity it should be a great year for fishing the 'big lake'. Lower water levels in conjunction with a good walleye population should provide some great success. I anticipate receiving a number of phone calls asking for us to do something about all the big fish coming out of the lake. This is a 'catch 22' since we'd certainly like to see the great fishery that's become established be sustained well into the future. However, if we lose our coldwater habitat and subsequently a large part of the smelt population, it would be a mistake to place a regulation on the fishery that would essentially mean greater pressure on the forage base. The last scenario

PROBLEMS FOR NORTH DAKOTA WATERS FROM EXOTIC PLANTS AND ANIMALS

By LR Schlueter, *Special Project Fisheries Biologist*

Exotic plants and animals are creating problems for native and desirable species in North Dakota's waters. Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) problems begin when a species is introduced to an area that does not have the biological controls it evolved with. As the introduced species flourish, it outcompetes other species for food resources, fills niches needed by fish we want and modifies the waterbody's habitats. The quality and quantity of habitat is a direct influence on the type of fish in a water body – the poorer the habitats and more less desirable fish are common.

ANS, both the number of areas with ANS infestations and the types of ANS, are increasing each year and with that, so does the potential for North Dakota to become infected with these species. We enjoyment of the outdoors will suffer – decreased fish catches, hunting is less productive, and recreational boating is hampered. It is important that we take the time and the simple steps to prevent the spread of ANS. Precautions are for us to “Lose the Hitchhiker” or we will “Lose the Lake” and ANS can be prevented if we “Keep It Clean”.

ANS problems are very difficult to control once they are established. Many states are spending over \$1 million per year and only slowed the spread of ANS, not eliminate the infestations. ANS control takes time and monies which could be better spent on managing the desirable, recreational species we want.

Just think of the damage that carp have done to walleye and yellow perch populations. The newer ANS fish species have been shown to be more damaging than the carp. As an example, round goby is a small fish from Europe's Baltic Sea region that are very hardy and have displace bullheads from the areas it infests. The gobies are not that far away, they are in the Great Lakes. Now think of what would happen to our walleye and yellow perch populations if goby got into your favorite lake. You or someone could fish for walleye in Lake Superior for a few days, then head home, and in a few hours be fishing on your favorite lake. In cleaning the boat out at the lake, bait and water from the livewells would be dumped and an ANS could be introduced.

There are ANS plants that cause problems when they overtake marshes, shorelines and eliminate the native plants to create a monoculture that is not beneficial to waterfowl and wildlife. This lack of diversity will also affect the fish populations in that water body. ANS plants can choke an area and you cannot fish those sites. That is a double hit against recreational fishing.

While we could hope that ANS does not get here from nonresidents coming into the state, residents coming back from fishing or hunting outside of the state or it does not get moved between lakes and reservoirs. It is just wishful think and it is not going to work. We, all of us outdoor recreators, need to actively work at preventing ANS from reaching North Dakota waters and spoiling our fishing.

ANS hitchhike to new areas by hiding on fishing and hunting gear, in boats and trailers or somewhere in sporting equipment. The prevention is very simple – Keep It Clean! It takes only a few minutes to do and will prevent ANS infestations in our lake. We — you, me and the other

outdoor recreators — need to make “Keep It Clean” a habit that is done each time you leave a lake, reservoir or river. When you “Lose the Hitchhiker” with the prevention of “Keep It Clean”, you will not “Lose Your Lake”. It is your choice and your actions will determine the fate of your favorite fishing hole or hunting spot.

The ANS prevention guidelines are:

- ✓ remove plant fragments from the boat or the PWC and its water intake, the trailer and its rollers or bunks, your fishing, hunting or scuba gear when leaving the water body
- ✓ drain water from the boat motor, livewell, bilge, and behind the transom before leaving that lake
- ✓ powerwash your boat and trailer
- ✓ clean and disinfect all fishing tackle, hunting or scuba gear or other equipment after an outing
- ✓ disinfect the boat, livewell and bilge by
 - power washer using water that is 104E F or hotter
 - rinse with a bleach solution (one part chlorine bleach to 20 parts warm water)
- ✓ disinfect fishing or scuba gear with
 - water that is 104E F or hotter
 - rinse with a bleach solution (one part chlorine bleach to 20 parts warm water)
- ✓ do not release bait or its water into a lake or move fish from one lake to another
 - place excess bait in the fish grinder, garbage or bury it at home
 - return fish into the lake they came from
 - do not transplant fish to other lakes

Remember this:

**LOSE the HITCHHIKERS
or LOSE the LAKE
it's YOUR CHOICE**



For more information on ANS and methods of prevention, contact your local North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

GAME AND FISH – CONTINUE FROM PAGE 3

we'd like to experience is a lake full of very nice fish die off because of starvation. There are certainly two sides to this scenario but we want to make the best of the current situation while still planning for the future. We're watching with trepidation as to what the summer and precipitation will bring.

The first lakes that will provide some good activity are the smaller lakes. All of you have a small lake that's fairly close to you and since they warm up sooner, they provide some good early action. They certainly have a variety of fish that can be utilized from pike, bluegill, trout, crappie and even walleye. Take advantage of these early in the season since they tend to become weed choked along the shoreline around the middle of June. Although they still provide some good fishing it just becomes a little tougher.

I'll call it quits for this newsletter and cease my rambling. There are always more subjects to write about than there is time and space to write in. Always remember, if you have a question or concern please let me or one of my staff know and we'll address it if we can.

BIS-MAN REEL & REC

by Errol Behm

Summer is just around the corner and fishing activity already appears to be in full swing on the river. Likewise many club activities are underway such as tournaments and projects. One of our main club activities is on hold at the present time because there hasn't been anyone to fill the director spot for the annual Take-A-Kid Fishing event. Hopes are that it can be held later this summer.

It looks like the releases of water from reservoirs on the Missouri River system are now going to be regulated by judges instead of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Litigation has begun to reduce the flow out of Sakakawea and Oahe as well as the other lakes affected by the low water situation. We will have to wait and see if this solves some of the cold water fishery problems and water supply problems along the system.

As of this writing there are still openings in our spring fishing derby which consists of up to 100 3-person teams. The entry fee is \$40 per person and must be a club member (\$5 for new members). Fun, prizes and food are all being looked forward to.

We hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable summer and that the fish keep biting.

ANNUAL SPORTSMEN'S SMOKER & RAFFLE A SUCCESS

A big 'thank you' goes out to Mike Anderson for getting the fundraiser set up and making sure that everything was ready; Paul Haug for getting all the merchandise (approximately \$4,000 of fishing, hunting, & camping equipment was raffled off throughout the evening) and to everyone else that helped sell tickets, worked the affair and attended the functions on April 12. Without all of you, we would not have had the success we did!



Cash Door Prize Winners



- ✓ \$500 Brett Behm, Mandan
- ✓ \$100 Nanci Fennern, Bismarck
- ✓ \$50 ... Monty Unterscher, Mandan
- ✓ \$50 Bryan Siegel, Mandan



LAKE REGION ANGLERS

Ed Dosch



Summer has finally arrived! With that the Lake Region Anglers are looking forward to another Great year for fishing on Devils Lake. At this point there are no major repairs that need to be done on the boat ramps around the lake.

On April 4, we held our annual meeting and held election of officers and board of directors, with results as follow:

- ✓ President Allan Freidig
- ✓ Vice President Dave Garske
- ✓ Secretary Kathy Nord
- ✓ Treasurer Elaine Dosch
- ✓ Board Members Maria Erickstad
Randy Yoder
Jason Mitchell
Lynn Schlueter
Mike Mertens
- ✓ Also on the Board of Directors Tom Rost
Alan Nord
Rick Ramsey

Congratulations to everyone elected to represent the Lake Region Anglers and a Thank You to the others who ran for an office.

If you are planning a trip to Devils Lake and are interested in fishing our outings, here are the dates:

- ✓ 10 May Spring Northern
- ✓ 8 June East Bay Outing
- ✓ 22 June Devils Lake Open
- ✓ 20 July Adult/Child Outing
- ✓ 3 August Walleye Widow Outing

The Lake Region Anglers would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer on and off the water. When you are going fishing or just enjoying the day boating remember to wear a Personal Floatation Device.

Have a Great Summer!
Take a Kid Fishing!



RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Wayne Beyer

5th ANNUAL WAHPPER CATFISH TOURNAMENT

1. The tournament is scheduled for **June 14, 2003** in Wahpeton, North Dakota on the Red River. Tournament headquarters be the Kidder Recreation Area in north Wahpeton; road entrance is 4th Street North & Dabill Drive (just north of 18th Avenue).
2. The entry fee is \$5 for ages 18 & under and \$10 for ages 19 & over. Fishermen can use boats or fish from shore. Entry deadline is Saturday, June 14, before 7:45 AM. Early registration is encouraged. All fishermen must report to tournament headquarters by 7:45 AM on Saturday, June 14.
3. Ages 1-18 can enter a youth division only (free) with trophies awarded for the five largest catfish. They would not qualify for the cash awards and cannot enter the cash tournament after the entry deadline, but can enter the free division throughout the day.
4. No culling or high grading is allowed. Only one catfish over 24" will be allowed for each individual daily and the minimum size is 14" to be entered in tourney.
5. 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 and trophy for the largest catfish. Prizes & trophies will be awarded for the second, third, fourth and fifth largest catfish with remaining funds from entry fees (30% - 1st, 25% - 2nd, 20% - 3rd, 15% - 4th & 10% - 5th). Fishermen are eligible for only one prize.
6. North Dakota Game & Fish Department fishing regulations will be strictly enforced.
7. Liability: the Wahpeton Park Board, Wahpeton Area Chamber of Commerce, Red River Area Sportsmen's Club, tournament sponsors & officials do not accept any liability of any sort. Officials' decisions are final.
8. Tournament Contact: Wahpeton Park Board (701-642-2811).

9. Eight ounce penalty for each fish which is deemed by tournament judges as unlikely to live. Catfish will be live released immediately after weigh-in. Judges' decision is binding on live release clause.
10. Fishing & Weigh-In Times: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Catfish will be weighed immediately after return to tournament headquarters. Presentation of awards will follow last weigh-in (5:00 PM or shortly thereafter).
11. The tournament boundary will be the Red River, starting at the confluence just north of the Dakota Avenue bridge and continuing northward.
12. This is a catfish tournament only! All other gamefish, including walleyes, must be released immediately.
13. No alcohol is allowed in the boats, by shorefishermen & tournament officials.
14. The Red River is a special fishery that can continue with caring and responsible management. We ask that fishermen take special care in handling catfish and we want to be careful to manage a quality, positive tournament. Put stringer through jaws; don't run it through gills. Boat fishermen should use an effective livewell. Thank you.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone (____)____-_____

The undersigned have read and understand the rules and release the tournament officials, Wahpeton Park Board, Red River Area Sportsmen's Club and tournament sponsors from any liability associated with the Wahpper Catfish Tournament.

Signature _____
 Date ____/____/____



Southwest Anglers Association
A non-profit organization
 P.O. Box 1473
 Dickinson, ND 58601

Fellow Anglers,

Well the ice is off and so are the 'die-hards'! Off to see if they can get stuck trying to launch their boats into an extremely low lake! I guess our chance for a big push of March snow is now grimly passed. But, we're thankful for the moisture we did get.

The club has been busy working on the sport show and the Dike project with anticipation for the upcoming yearly tournament we host. It will be the second weekend in July as normal at McKenzie Bay. Bernie Ficek and his family, who have done a terrific job for past years organizing this event, are ones to be commended!

If there are any questions on signing up for this fun filled chance at some money, trophies, and steaks, give him a call at: 701-225-9672.

As always we encourage the rest of the clubs in our state to become active in the ND Sportfishing Congress, their local legislative branches, and kids! Our annual kids fishing derby is scheduled for May 10th, for which we expect between three and four hundred to participate. Hats off to Curt Decker and his part in making this annual event something great for the kids to look forward to! If anyone is interested in this call Curt at 701-225-6315. Thanks Curt!

Well, that's about all from the outskirts. Our wish is that you all have a great summer. Catch lots of fish and have fun!

*Southwest Anglers,
 Paul Kriege*

ANNUAL DUES AND SPONSORSHIP 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 renewal date is at the top of your mailing label listed as the month/year, e.g., 04/04.)

Club Member's dues are \$50 and were due on or before the annual meeting that is held in April of each year. To maintain your club's voting rights for 2003, 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 sponsorship for individual members. For convenience, an individual may choose to prepay several years' sponsorships at one time.

NOTE

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please email Marie Hoerner at mhoerner@btinet.net with a Subject of "*Sportfishing Newsletter by Email*". Marie's email address will change after May 19.

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 _____



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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____

Email _____

Delegate 2

Name _____

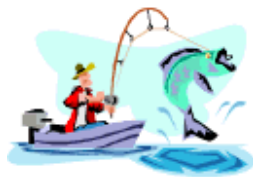
Address _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____

Email _____

FISHING TOURNAMENTS ON NORTH DAKOTA WATERS

by LR Schlueter



The number of fishing tournaments on North Dakota waters has increased in the last few years, along with the number of anglers and the number of recreational angling trips to our waters. With this combination of increased angler use and a limited number of boat ramps on waterbodies, concerns were voiced about conflicts and crowding. About five years ago, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department formed a Fishing Tournament Committee to help the Department develop its statewide policy on fishing tournaments. The Fishing Tournament Committee is made up of Department staff, an Advisory Board member, a North Dakota Sportfishing Congress representative, a fishing guide, and recreational anglers.

The Fishing Tournament Committee recommended the following for fishing tournaments in 2003:

- ↪ **Missouri River and Upper Oahe** – no more than 8 weekend tournaments from 01 APR through 31 OCT from Burnt Boat Landing to Rifle Range Ramp. No tournaments on consecutive weekends. Tournament applications are made after 01 JAN and in case of multiple requests where tournament organizers can resolve the issue, a drawing will be held.
- ↪ **Lake Sakakawea** – two categories of tournaments – major with 50 or more boats and minor with less than 50 boats. No more than two major tournaments per

month per region (region 1 is dam to Indian Hills, region 2 is Indian Hills to Little Knife Bay, region 3 is Little Knife Bay to Montana border) on weekends. No tournaments on consecutive weekends off the same boat ramp. Major tournaments on weekdays cannot be followed by a major tournament on the weekend in the same area or region. Same policy for more than one tournament for the same area on the same date.

- ↪ **Devils Lake** – The current policy is for: 1) no more than two major tournaments (50 or more boats) per month on weekends with none allowed on consecutive weekends at the same ramp with the Casino ramp being an exception; and 2) major tournaments can be held on weekdays if not followed by a major tournament on the same weekend.
- ↪ **Statewide** – all major tournaments will be monitored for adequate boat inspection for ANS. Fizzing of fish will not be allowed by tournament organizers or their volunteers. Live release tournaments will not be allowed in July and August when water temperatures are too high for good fish survival. Anglers who violate state law(s) or regulation(s) should be immediately disqualified by the tournament officials. The tournaments should have sufficient safety boats.

The tournaments are required to submit a conservation fee which is 10% of the total entry fee. These monies are to be used for aquatic improvement projects — boat ramps, docks, toilets, roadway improvements or meant to enhance the resource or its use.

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