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March 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Duaine Ash



Don't know where the time has gone, but seems just like yesterday that we getting ready to put out a newsletter.

We have had a busy time as the Congress is involved in a variety of activities. One of the major items is that we are trying to work with the Billings Lake Committee, which consists of land owners and member of the Cavalier and Ramsey County Water Board, on a solution to keep carp out of Devils Lake. We had many meetings with the committee, ND State Water Commission, ND Game & Fish; seems like we are no closer to a solution than we were a year ago, but steps are being made to come to an equitable solution to all involved.

We have been working with Lynn Schlueter, ANS coordinator/special project biologist, drafting regulations and ANS list which goes to the North Dakota Game & Fish Director Terry Steinwand for his review and approval. We are looking forward to having regulations in place to protect our natural resources.

The legislative session has been relatively quiet as far as fishing issues are concerned. I encourage all of you to spend some time walking and visiting in the halls; it is a great experience. I am enjoying the experience of being your lobbyist for this legislative session; it has been an opportunity of a life time.

We have been part of the COE Master Plan Steering Committee to rewrite the Master Plan for Lake

Sakakawea and it is nearing completion and will be ready for public comment this summer. It has been a challenging and rewarding, and I am glad to have been part of the process.

We will hold our annual meeting and fundraiser at the Mandan Eagles Club on Saturday, April 14, 2007. The annual meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. (Central Time) and the fundraiser will start at 6:00 p.m..

We are looking for fresh blood to fill positions on the board of directors or one of the chairs. It is a great way to meet and fellowship with a bunch of fellows that want to ensure the natural resources of this great state continue to be a destination state to come to visit. Hope to see you at the meeting and fundraiser.

Marie has updated our website – making it more user friendly. It should be easier for the clubs to access their websites. We encourage associate clubs to use your web page. Marie is more than willing to work with you in getting your web page updated and new items/articles to your site. Remember, the North Dakota Sportfishing website is your site; we need your input to make it better.

Hope you all have a great summer – keep a tight line and good fishing!

For those of you that may not know that Ron Luidahl, age 59, a good friend, an great individual that loved to fish, hunt and spent time in the great outdoors, past president and one of the founder of the NDSFC, passed away this past November 27, 2006. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Luidahl family.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President Duaine Ash, Devils Lake (701-662-3989)
- Past President Bruce Hagen, Devils Lake (701-739-8689)
- 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)
 - Ed Dosch, Devils Lake (701-395-4302)
 - Richard Fink, Bismarck (701-258-6181)
 - Paul Haug, Fargo (701-232-0944)
 - Rick Lee, Mandan (701-663-2010)
- Exec Secretary Marie Hoerner, Bismarck (701-223-8067)

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13TH Annual Sportsmen's Smoker & Raffle

Sponsored by: **North Dakota Sportfishing Congress**



When: Saturday, April 14, 2007

Where: Eagles Club, Mandan, ND
1400 Collins Avenue

Tickets:

- \$25.00 Includes Buffet Dinner;
- 4 Cash Door Prizes – \$500, \$100, \$50 (2)
- Limited Seating
- Purchase Tickets Early

Time: Cash Bar & Raffles begin at 6:00 pm
Dinner approximately 7:30 pm

Activities: \$4,000 Fishing, Camping, & Hunting
Equipment Raffles; Special & Cash Raffles;

Contacts: Richard Fink: 701-258-6181 (home)
Mike Anderson: 701-224-9048 (home)

BIS-MAN REEL & REC

by Dave Bement



2007 Events

May 16th – 26th Annual Spring Walleye Derby Rules meeting, Bismarck Elks Lodge – 6:30 p.m.

May 18th – Annual Spring Derby Fish Fry & Social, Graner Bottoms (12 miles south of Mandan on Hwy 1806)–6 pm

May 19th – 26th Annual Spring Walleye Derby (1st flight @ 6:30 am); 10 to Noon–Club-sponsored Kid's Fishing Derby

June 9th – 26th Annual Take-A-Kid Fishing Day, Sweetbriar Dam (17 miles west of Mandan on I-94)
Please call me @ 258-3583 if you wish to volunteer for this event or just show up on site at 8:00 a.m.

GAME AND FISH PERSPECTIVES

by Greg Power



All things considered, fishing has been pretty good throughout most of the winter. Although perch opportunities (and good fishing) were fewer, walleye and pike fishing was relatively good at numerous water bodies scattered across the state. Not only was this winter's ice fishing respectable but so was fishing last summer. For example, Lake Sakakawea produced an angler catch of one million walleye and a harvest of ½ million. The Missouri River provided a harvest of 110,000 walleye. Although not quantified, Devils Lake had fantastic fishing for walleye, northern pike and at times for white bass and yellow perch. Smaller water bodies including Jamestown Reservoir, Lake Audubon and Stump Lake had some very good catches. Again, all in all, the past year was a good one for fishing.

Fishing opportunities and good catches don't just happen. A lot of effort by numerous agencies and individuals (including private landowners) is needed every year to protect and enhance North Dakota fishing resources. As such, there are some important fishing matters, either current or in the immediate future, that the SFC readership should be aware of so to be better informed.

Budget Matters – As of late February, the ND Game and Fish Departments (NDGFD) budget for July 2007 through June 2009 was being discussed and considered within the Legislature. The overall proposed NDGFD budget is approximately \$55 million and includes a couple add-ons that would immediately impact the Fisheries Division and fishing in general. One add-on is an additional \$800,000 to address Missouri River System boating access yet this spring (emergency clause would allow the money to be spent immediately). It was hoped that some form of Federal funding, presumably through the US Army Corps of Engineers, would have been available to meet this need but unfortunately this did not materialize. Another add-on is \$300,000 to be used as a cost-share with other entities/agencies to fix the seepage problems at Sweetbriar Dam. This will be largest cash lay-out the NDGFD has ever provided for a dam repair project but as our dams and reservoirs across the state continue to age, maintenance will be an ever increasing issue that will continually need to be addressed.

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) – Preliminary rules and regulations have been drafted dealing with ANS. It is hoped that by summer the NDGFD will submit administrative rules to the Legislative Council for adoption. These new rules are intended to protect North Dakota aquatic resources from the threats posed by ANS entering our state. Please see the draft framework of the proposed ANS rules at the end of this feature.

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) – VHS is a fish pathogen (virus) which is quickly spreading in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada.

GAME AND FISH – CONTINUE FROM PAGE 2

VHS virus affects fish of all size and age ranges and often leads to large die-offs of numerous species; however, VHS does not pose any threat to human health. (VHS causes hemorrhaging of fish tissue, including internal organs, and can cause the death of infected fish). Steps have been taken by the Federal government to ban export of live fish from the Great Lakes states and provinces.

Lake Sakakawea Stocking – Record low elevation and ongoing (worsening) drought has seriously stressed the forage base in Lake Sakakawea. As a result, both Chinook salmon and walleye stocking have been curtailed considerably in recent years.

Keeping carp out of Devils Lake – The NDGFD continues to seek a permanent solution (barrier) that can be constructed without delay at the divide separating the headwaters of Snowflake Creek (Pembina River drainage) and Upper Edmore Coulee (Devils Lake drainage). This is needed to ensure that this potential water connection to Devils Lake is never used by carp. Chemical control was used last year and will again be used in 2007; however, chemical is not the long-term answer. A need continues for all concerned parties to work with the Devils Lake Joint Water Board and seek a successful and final resolution of this matter.

Bait Vendors – There are approximately 300 retail and 30 wholesale licensed bait vendors in North Dakota. The NDGFD has the following objectives for regulating the bait industry - protect a North Dakota resource; reduce/eliminate possession and risk of introduction of undesirable fish species into North Dakota fishing waters; reduce the potential for import of aquatic nuisance species into the state; ensure clean, healthy bait; and maintain a process of equitably allocating a resource amongst vendors while providing a reliable supply for North Dakota anglers. With this in mind, the NDGFD continues its effort to administer and strengthen all rules and regulations to ensure a clean bait industry.

Proclamation Amendment – Although 2007-2008 is the off year in terms of the fishing proclamation (significant fishing regulation changes are not made), there is one noticeable change to the upcoming fishing season. If the paddlefish harvest season closes early, snag and release will be allowed for a seven day period immediately following the harvest closure, but not to extend beyond May 31. By providing additional ‘snagging’ opportunity in 2007, individuals who planned to travel to the Williston area will now be able to still participate in snagging (as long as they have their unused tag in their possession) even if the harvest season was closed early. However, it should be noted that only a small portion (Confluence area) of the normal area will be open to this snagging opportunity. This will allow both biologists and enforcement to monitor snagging activity and determine the effectiveness of the additional days made available for snagging.

NDGFD Personnel Changes – In January 2007, longtime (35 years) biologist Emil Berard retired from the NDGFD. Emil was instrumental in making the

Missouri River System (MRS) fishery nationally renowned and still has more field experience on the MRS than any other biologist. All anglers have benefitted from his experience and commitment to North Dakota fishery resources. As a result of Emil’s retirement, there were a number of staff (many which you likely know) who have shifted positions:

- Jeff Hendrickson transferred from Riverdale to Dickinson (Southwest District Fisheries Supervisor)
- Jason Lee transferred from Bismarck to Riverdale (Northcentral District Fisheries Supervisor)
- Paul Bailey transferred from Riverdale to Bismarck (Southcentral District Fisheries Supervisor)
- Dave Fryda became the MRS Supervisor (and remained in Riverdale)
- Russ Kinzler became the MRS Biologist (and remained in Riverdale)

These biologists will continue their top-notch level of competency dealing with the complexities of the underwater world. As always, feel free to stop in or drop them (or any of our other biologists) a line about any issue you may want to share.

As water soon goes through its annual metamorphous from ice to liquid, let the fishing itch be felt ... get out and wet a line!!! Happy angling!



DRAFT AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS) RULES/REGULATIONS

[under consideration]

ANS-specific protection

1. No person, as defined by North Dakota Century Code section 20.1-01-02, shall possess any aquatic nuisance species, as delineated in the state’s aquatic nuisance species list without a special director’s permit
2. All boats, boat motors, boat trailers, and recreational or construction equipment shall be free of aquatic nuisance species, as delineated in the state’s aquatic nuisance species list.

ANS-general protection

3. No aquatic vegetation or parts thereof shall be found on boats, boat motors, boat trailers, and recreational or construction equipment when out of water.
4. All water must be drained from boats (including built in structures such as bilges and livewells), boat motors, boat trailers, and recreational or construction equipment when out of water.

ANS-inspections

5. Operators of all watercraft and recreational or construction equipment must inspect their equipment for aquatic vegetation when removed from the state’s waters or upon entering the state.

ANS-bait protection

6. Live aquatic bait being imported, transported or offered for sale shall be free of aquatic vegetation or parts thereof.



We are living in an age of new technology and the sessions of the both Chambers can be viewed over the internet. Website:

www.ndsportfishingcongress.org;

click on 'Legislative Reports'; then click on <http://www.legis.nd.gov/>. Click on 'Floor Sessions' in lower right hand corner; this will take you to the 2007 Daily Session: Audio/Video site. In the middle part of the site you can either listen to the session or view it over the video. It really is a neat site.

GREAT PLANERS TROUT & SALMON CLUB

by Monte Babeck, President

The Great Planers Trout and Salmon Club are again gearing up for another great summer at Lake Sakakawea.

First and foremost are the outings which are set for August 4th and September 2nd from 6:00 to 8:00 in the main shelter at Lake Sakakawea State Park. For those of you that have not attended an outing, you are missing out. We have swap meets, rigging demos, and years of experience within the club to help the new salmon angler learn the sport of salmon fishing. Between the boiled salmon and all the vegetables covered in melted butter, nobody walks away hungry. It's a great time and this year we will be even better. In addition to the door prizes given away at the outings we will have special drawings for just younger kids. The club is a family friendly club and supports getting are youth involved in the great past time of fishing.

The club is also proud to announce our new website at www.GPTSC.com. The site is full of information with new information and content continually being added. We are in the early stages but check it out to see what is new and what the club is all about.

One of the major events of the club is our annual derby which is set for August 25th. The one day derby brings in teams from all over the state for the chance to win one of the many prizes provided to us by an incredible list of sponsors. Special categories for youth, junior, and adult provides everyone an opportunity to walk away with something.

Lastly, the recent general meeting for Great Planers Trout and Salmon Club a new list of officers were voted on and elected.

The new Executive Board consists of:

- President Monte Babeck
- Nominating Chair & Past President..... Al Noshbosh
- Secretary Richard Bruer
- Program Chair Terry Focke
- Derby Chair Ray Feist
- Derby Co-Chair Mark Anderson

So, if you are interested in learning the sport of salmon fishing or just enjoy listening or telling of fish stories with a terrific bunch of people, check out the web sight to find out more information about becoming a member.

RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Wayne Beyer

Over 270 children + their parents participated in the 4th Annual Youth Ice Fishing Derby held at Heitkamp Pond north of Wahpeton. 41 fish were caught, including crappies, bluegills, walleyes and yellow perch. The Sportsmen's Club was pleased to partner with Neil Heitkamp, Heitkamp Construction who does the majority of the work for the event. Every girl and boy received a door prize from other generous businesses, rods/reels and equipment were made available for those without, holes were drilled, minnows were provided, hot food was prepared for everybody and every individual who caught a fish received a trophy for the catch-and-release tournament. The event has proved to attract many youths and their families to try the great sport of ice-fishing.

The Red River Area Sportsmen's Club has scheduled its 24th Annual Spring Fishing Derby on Saturday, May 5th at the Kidder Recreation Area, located along the Red River on the north side of Wahpeton. Fishing hours are 7 AM to 3 PM. There are door prizes for all contestants and trophies for several species of fish and other contests. The Sportsmen's Club partnership with the ND Game & Fish Department to be a 'Rod & Reel Loaner Program' host results in rods & reels and tackle boxes with fishing equipment for young people trying fishing for the first time. From walleyes to sturgeon to white suckers to smallmouth bass, much of the Spring Fishing Derby's fun is seeing what species of fish will be brought to the surface after a combative tussle.

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/>



BARNES COUNTY WILDLIFE FEDERATION

by Don Baasch



Southwick Associates'
GSA Schedule

Welcome to the **Southwick Newsletter** focusing on economics and statistics related to fish & wildlife management and outdoor recreation. This newsletter highlights recent research from Southwick Associates.

In This Issue:

- Hunters and Anglers Favorite Brands, Species and More
- Price Increases: More than Just Opening Your Wallet
- Outdoor Recreation – A HUGE Part of the U.S. Economy
- Updates on Recent Projects

*Previous newsletters are available at
www.southwickassociates.com*

Hunters and Anglers Favorite Brands, Species and More

For the first time, detailed information is available on hunters' and anglers' favorite brands, favored retail outlets and preferred activities. Through 2006, HunterSurvey and AnglerSurvey monitored the monthly activities and purchases of thousands of hunters and anglers across the U.S. Conducted via an online survey, the results are weighted to scientifically represent all U.S. anglers and hunters. Findings presented within the nearly 150 pages of results include:

Sportfishing:

- Best selling rod brand in 2006: Shakespeare
- Best selling soft bait brands in 2006: Zoom & Berkley Gulp
- Percent of anglers who fish with lures: 65%
- Percent of reels purchased online: 4.5%

Hunting:

- Best selling gun scope in 2006: Tasco, with Bushnell very close behind
- Best selling bow: PSE, with Hoyt very close behind
- Percent of hunters who pursued turkey in 2006: 16%
- 40% more people shoot trap & skeet than participate in sporting clays
- Outdoor specialty stores (Bass Pro, Cabelas, Gander, etc.) accounted for 21% of sportsmen's shotgun purchases

AnglerSurvey and HunterSurvey provide sales data for all brands with 1% or more of the market place for dozens of fishing and hunting product categories. Each month, different questions are presented covering major issues of the day. For example, a recent question inquired about crowding problems at boat ramps. The results showed that nearly 11% of anglers have canceled a fishing trip due to overcrowded ramps. Ramifications include a potential loss of \$287 million in fishing expenditures, reduced state and federal tax revenues of \$50 million and 7,400 jobs. If you have a question you would like to see us ask on an upcoming survey, drop us a note!

Specialized analyses can be generated for specific product, brand or hunting/fishing activity. For more information about the AnglerSurvey or HunterSurvey subscription-based services, please contact Rob Southwick (rob@southwickassociates.com).

Price Increases in any Form Impact Participation

Everyone remembers their Econ 101 professor saying "when prices go up, sales go down." This is true for fishing, hunting and other outdoor pursuits. When sportsmen pay more for fuel, we know fewer will fish and hunt. But, price increases are realized in more places than the cash register, and the effects can be severe for conservation and commerce.

Any additional cost you incur to buy something is a price increase. Anything that is considered a negative, or detraction, from the joys of spending a day outdoors, is effectively a price increase. For example, when new regulations are regarded as a hassle by anglers, this acts as a price increase. The extra hassle, or cost, reduces the overall benefits from fishing and is enough to discourage many anglers from participating altogether. These anglers will find some other way to spend their free time, and we lose their license revenues and tackle purchases. Increasingly longer drives to hunt-able lands or rising tempers at boat ramps also act as defacto price increases and take away from the satisfaction received from a day spent outdoors. Every slight increase is enough to encourage more anglers to find a new recreational activity.

Price increases are not just man-made. Red tide outbreaks in marine waters reduce catches and foul the air, thus increasing the negatives associated with a day of fishing. If hunters perceive a greater risk of harvesting diseased game, this is tantamount to a price increase and will be enough to drive some hunters to other activities. And these types of price increases are not new to the outdoor community. New rules telling people where they can or cannot mountain bike or ride jet skis also add to the intrinsic cost of participation – a price increase – and reduce sales and days spent outdoors. Economists call many of these problems "opportunity costs", and just like a nominal price increase, they are additional costs imposed on the user, and are enough to discourage many from participating.

Increased costs do not have to be real to impact participation and expenditures. Just the perception of potential cost increases, such as rumors of long waits to get onto limited access lands or fears of increased user fees, will stop many people from participating.

Why bring up this issue? If we are trying to increase the number of people participating in nature-based sports, we must do all we can to lower their cost of participation. Whether the additional costs are real or perceived, additional costs impact people's decisions to go outdoors or do something else. Often, price hikes, regulatory changes and other similar actions are necessary. However, by carefully considering the impacts on participants from any actions or changes, resource agencies and outdoor-related businesses can minimize the negative effects of price hikes.

Outdoor Recreation – A HUGE Part of the U.S. Economy

The Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) has released a report detailing the enormous economic contributions from outdoor recreation. Produced by the Outdoor

SOUTHWICK ASSOCIATES – CONTINUE FROM PAGE 5

Industry Foundation, Southwick Associates and Harris Interactive, this report provides details regarding the \$289 billion spent on gear and travel, and the \$730 billion impact on the economy, including 6.5 million jobs (1 in 20 U.S. jobs) and \$88 billion in federal and state tax revenue. This outdoor recreation economy is fueled by the more than three-quarters of Americans who participate in bicycling, camping, fishing, hunting, paddling, hiking, snow sports, and wildlife viewing activities.

“Active outdoor recreation has grown into a major engine for our economy, producing millions of jobs and generating billions in tax dollars,” said Frank Hugelmeyer, President of Outdoor Industry Association. He continued, “Policymakers need to recognize this enormous economic contribution and encourage its continued growth when making decisions about the use of public space and parks and recreation.”

A copy of the report can be downloaded at www.southwickassociates.com or by visiting www.outdoorindustry.org's research and resources pages.

Updates on Recent Projects

- **U.S. Forest Service Economic Impacts: Hunting, Fishing And Wildlife-Viewing** – Recently completed for the U.S. Forest Service and the American Sportfishing Association, a copy can be obtained for free by visiting www.SouthwickAssociates.com's Free Reports section.
- **More 'Data Mining' Results From State Fishing License Data Bases: Hunting And Fishing Participation Trends** – This groundbreaking analysis is looking at the lifestyle differences among anglers across the U.S. and trends impacting license sales and business, such as the low percentage of anglers who renew their licenses regularly. Details will be featured in the next newsletter.
- **Economic Comparisons of Marine Recreational and Commercial Finfish Fisheries** – This report, produced for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, explains the relative size and importance of the U.S.'s marine finfish fisheries. Copies are available from the Free Reports section of www.SouthwickAssociates.com.

In Future Issues:

- Results From Analyses of State Hunting and Fishing License Data Bases
- Raising Fishing and Hunting License Prices: The Smart Way To Do It
- 2006 Economic Impacts of Hunting and Sportfishing

Southwick Associates, Inc. specializes in natural resource & environmental economic and statistical research. Our staff is comprised of economic and statistics professionals throughout the U.S. who have in-depth experience measuring the values, benefits and revenues possible from fish, wildlife, and water-related natural resources plus their associated recreational uses. We can help clients better address many business, legal, legislative and public communication issues through the practical application of reliable and accurate economic information and statistics.

For information and other reports, visit our web site at www.southwickassociates.com

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GARRISON DAM AND VALLEY CITY NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES

by Rob Holm

In the fish hatchery business when the water's rising, there little need for hatchery stocking. When water levels are down, we keep busy. Let's just say we've been busy. In spite of a drop off in requests for Lake Sakakawea we will have our hands full again this year meeting the stockings requests across the state. Last year over 10 million fish; seventy-three thousand pounds were stocked from Garrison Dam NFH and another 3.28 million from the Valley City NFH. We'll be meeting with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in March to iron out the details of this year's stocking requests but indications are they will be similar to the past years of drought.

As to be expected we will be reducing the number of salmon stocked into Lake Sakakawea this year. With a continued drop in lake elevation and corresponding decline in the smelt population we anticipate stocking only 50,000 salmon smolts this spring followed by another 15,000 in October. Hopefully we can get through the drought and back into the heydays were we'll once again be stocking a half million. This year will be the second in a row for stocking in the tailrace – another 50,000 chinook will go there. I'm anxious to see what kind of a return we get into the hatchery in the fall of 2008 when these fish mature and return back up the hatchery creek. For all of you who made it up this year to see the salmon run at the hatchery and help place rock and plant grass and trees, it should be quite the sight. And thanks for the help and support.

If you've been watching the news you probably heard we are trying to raise burbot (ling) at the hatchery. The fish spawned for us back in December and the eggs are just now hatching. It appears to be a challenging fish to raise but hopefully we'll learn the ropes quickly. The reason for our interest in raising burbot stems from a request to reintroduce or supplement the population in the Wind River, Wyoming, where the burbot population has become depleted. If we are successful we'll likely be raising this species during the winters to help them out. On another note, paddlefish are on our roster this year. We last produced paddlefish back in 1997. Since then the bottom has dropped out of the paddlefish population and we've been asked to produce a few to keep their numbers stable.

Last bit of news – funding for a couple additional pond liners appears to be coming through. I can't emphasize enough what the addition of liners has meant to our success in meeting the demand for walleye and pike stockings. Bottom line is that each pond lined nearly doubles our walleye or pike production; and to you it means more fish available for stocking. This year we will also be able to put those lined ponds to work producing paddlefish as well. Many thanks to Senator Dorgan and his staff for the continued financial support.

FM WALLEYES UNLIMITED, INC.

FM Walleyes Unlimited Inc has announced its 2007 Club Outing schedule. It all gets started with our annual trip to Waubay Lake, SD on April 28th & 29th. This event usually includes a fish fry after the weigh in on day one where no one goes hungry.



The complete schedule is as follows:

- ✓ April 28-29 Waubay Lake, SD
Lodging at Holiday Motel
- ✓ May 19-20 Big Stone Lake, SD
Lodging at Hartford State Park
- ✓ June 16-17 Lake Le Homme Dieu
Alexandria, MN • Lodging at Dya's Inn
- ✓ July 21-22 Devils Lake, ND
Lodging at Spirit Lake Casino
- ✓ August 18-19 Upper Red Lake, MN
Lodging at Big Bog State Park

Club outings are a great place to make friends and enjoy time on the water with the family. Club members compete in a low key tournament format where members are allowed to weigh in three fish daily. Anglers can fish one or both days. Your top three fish for the weekend will be counted as your total weight for the event. Results are tracked thru ough the year and a club tournament champion is crowned at the annual meeting in the adult and youth divisions. The focus of the events is not so much on competition but more on enjoying the outdoors with others that share your love for the outdoors. Club outings frequently include a fish fry and cookout where many friendships are cultivated and strengthened.

If you would like more information on the club outings please contact Steve Hall at 701-261-4379 or Scott Stillwell at 701-361-1682.

PLAN TO ATTEND

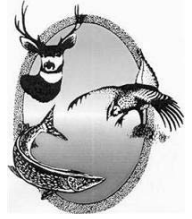


Annual Meeting & Fund Raiser is set for **Saturday, April 14** Eagles Club, Mandan

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES UPDATE

By LR Schlueter/ANS Coordinator
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

New aquatic nuisance species have recently been found in nearby waters and may pose a threat to North Dakota waters. Viral hemorrhagic septicemia was discovered in the eastern Great Lake and spiny water fleas in Rainy River/Lake of the Woods.



VHS causes internal hemorrhaging and infects a number of fish species – walleye, yellow perch, northern pike, and baitfish. Federal and state governments have issued restrictions on the movement of fish from the eastern Great Lakes states.

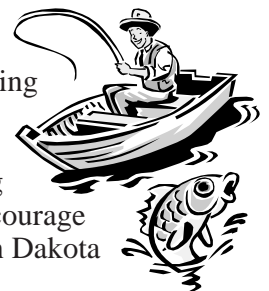
Spiny water fleas are large, predacious zooplanktors, which feed on smaller zooplanktors – food for smaller game fish. These ANS can be moved in baitfish and water in bilges and livewells. Minnesota DNR has restricted the collection of minnows from infested waters to prevent the spread of the problem to other inland lakes.

In 2006, approximately 130 waters in North Dakota were sampled for ANS. The waters sampled were those likely to be infested because they receive a lot of use by visitors, are used by North Dakotans who have fished out-of-state, and have water conditions which would support new ANS. One new site was confirmed, as curlyleaf pondweed was found above Valley City in the Sheyenne River. Curlyleaf pondweed still remains a problem in the Missouri River and McDowell Dam in Burleigh County. Eurasian water milfoil has been found in the Sheyenne River in Valley City and Dead Colt Creek Reservoir near Lisbon.

The Ransom County Water Resource District and North Dakota Game and Fish Department are working to control the water milfoil in Dead Colt Creek by employing a second winter drawdown to expose plants to freezing temperatures. The Barnes County Water Resource District and County Weed Board is working with Game and Fish to do an aquatic herbicide treatment of water milfoil after spring runoff. The Game and Fish Department also intends to apply an aquatic herbicide at McDowell Dam to combat curlyleaf pondweed.

While drastic treatments are being planned to control some ANS infestations, nothing is better and less expensive than prevention. Prevention starts at the boat ramp once boats are removed from the water. At the ramp remove any and all aquatic vegetation from the boat/trailer and equipment. Power wash boat and trailer at a car wash to remove any missed plant fragments. Disinfect the livewell and bilge with a mild bleach solution.

These simple steps will keep ANS from being moved to new locations, ensuring many more days of enjoyable fishing and hunting on North Dakota waters. ANS prevention is needed for protecting fishing for the future. We need to act now and encourage others to do likewise. Recreation on North Dakota waters depends on us keeping it clean.



*The following article was submitted by
Rynee Kellar, Bis-Man Reel & Rec*

Allan Burke, Publisher
Emmons County Record
PO Box 38 • Linton, ND
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Missouri River/Lake Oahe recreational opportunities and improvements in Emmons County were the focus of a meeting held Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Elks Club, Bismarck. Sponsors of the meeting were Voices for Lake Oahe (VFLO, an Emmons County based group) and Bis-Man Reel and Rec.

Ron Kraft of VFLO facilitated the meeting. Presenting updates to the group were Bob Valeu, U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan's State Director; Game & Fish State Director Terry Steinwand; State Parks Director Doug Prchal; engineer Dennis Meier; Missouri River advocate Reiny Kellar; VFLO's Tony Splonskowski of Bismarck; VFLO Director Rick Lee; State Water Commission Assistant Director Todd Sandos; Steve Krenz of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Ralph Gabrysh of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A major item on the agenda was the concept of an impoundment on the east side of North Dakota Highway 1804 where it crosses Beaver Bay. VFLO has put many hours into the project for nearly two years, and their efforts are now beginning to pay off. All of the major agencies involved—N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. Game & Fish and the Corps of Engineers—are now generally favorable to the idea, although specifics need to be ironed out.

Steinwand said his agency has checked it out and finds the impoundment would not create a problem for walleye spawning, which, in normal years, occurs where Lake Oahe backs up into Beaver Creek east of the bridge. He noted that fish follow the creek channel. The movement of fish was also a concern of U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and Krenz said it appears that is not a problem. Under the proposal, a lake would be created east of the causeway and would have a maximum elevation of 1607. The existing Game & Fish boat ramp on the southeast of the bridge is usable at 1603 and above. The end of the ramp goes into the old Beaver Creek channel, and the concrete slab ends at 1596.

Steinwand said the state would move or improve the boat ramp, if necessary. The NDDOT's concern has to do with the strength of the causeway and any effect from the impoundment. Engineers will study that.

Lee said the lake would have an average depth of 8-10 feet and would cover about 900 acres. VFLO has argued that the lake would not only be good for fishermen but would also offer opportunities for water skiing, jet skiing and swimming.

At Valeu's suggestion, it was agreed that a task force would be formed to pursue the creation of the impoundment. The next step will be engineering works to map

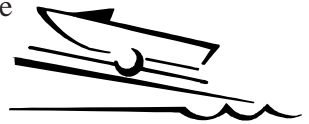
out the project, and the Corps' archeologist will have to assess the area, which is not expected to be a problem. Much of that work could be done this year, according to the discussion at the meeting.

Beaver Bay project

Gabrysh said the Corps has a "conceptual plan" for upgrading the Beaver Creek Campground and the primitive area to the northeast of the causeway. The plan calls for a second comfort station, additional playground equipment, upgrading the area northeast of the causeway (including roads) and other improvements. There was discussion about whether it would be better for the State Parks Department to assume responsibility for the Beaver Bay Campground, but Prchal said it would then be competing with the existing state parks for funding. He and others said they felt it would be better for the Corps to continue operating the campground and park.

Low-water ramps

Splonskowski and Gabrysh discussed efforts to improve low-water boat ramps to improve access for fishermen to the Missouri River. Gabrysh said the Corps is focusing on five of the 14 sites originally considered. They include Beaver Creek South (Jennerville), Langeliers Bay, Hazelton, Ohlhauser and an area near where the highlines cross the river.



The Langeliers Bay ramp will be considered only if a new route can be determined. The original plan called for a road crossing a cattle grazing area, and the leaseholder objected to it. Gabrysh said the ramps that are finally selected for improvement will be finished in time for spring fishing.

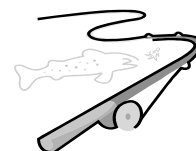
Hazelton Boat Ramp

Gabrysh said the Corps has funding in place to make various improvements at the Hazelton Boat Ramp and Campground.

He said \$200,000 has been budgeted, which would pay for relocating and improving the boat ramp and expanding the parking lot and putting electrical outlets in the campground.

The Good Sam Club is assisting with the project. Kellar noted the sandbar problem at the existing boat ramp, which would be an argument for moving the ramp further south and putting a large culvert in a drainage just south of the parking lot and building a road over the culvert to the new ramp.

It was agreed that all of the projects discussed would be beneficial to Emmons County and the Highway 83 towns that would get increased recreational traffic.



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 2005-06, 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 _____

LAKE REGION ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

by Clark Williams



Fishing for Fun:

Lake Region Anglers Assn is into a lot of stuff these days: Tournaments, Devils Lake Access maintenance and development, fund raising, kids activities, politics and supporting NDG&F activities including clean water and ANS. But in recent years the questions has been raised what do we have for the basic recreational adult angler? And the answer has been, "very little".

Starting last summer we have formed a "Fishing for Fun" program, sometimes loosely referred to as the "F Troop". We try to get together one evening a month to fish together or to discuss fishing. Last summer we held evening recreational fishing once a month where people would pair off with someone who they had never fished with before. This winter we have sessions that featured various topics include: Ice fishing tactics, equipment and electronics, an ice fishing round table discussion, local guides discussing techniques and Devils Lakes

unique ecology, open water trolling, lead core and snap weights. Planned for later this spring is Boat and trailer rigging and maintenance.

These sessions generally include appetizers and are open to the public. If you would like more information contact Clark Williams at 701-662-5008 or shadrap@gondtc.com.

Annual Meeting:

- ✓ Friday March 30, 2007 • 7:00 PM – KC Hall

2007 Summer LRAA Tournament Schedule:

- ✓ Spring Northern Saturday, May 12
- ✓ East Bay Saturday, June 2
- ✓ Devils Lake Open Saturday, June 16
- ✓ Adult/Child Saturday, July 21
- ✓ Walleye Widow Saturday, August 4

For more information, contact LRAA at lraa@gondtc.com

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