



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

Volume 08-01

March 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Clark Williams

It's getting to look a lot like — open water. In Devils Lake, where I live, it may be a while yet but I got my boat out and put it in the garage to start my spring ritual of cleaning, rearranging, rewiring and daydreaming. I'm looking forward to fishing on the river when I come to Mandan for the NDSFC Annual Meeting, April 12th.



The Mission of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress is to work with and support the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in protecting and improving our excellent fishing resource. With the upcoming Legislative Session, it is particularly important that we support the Sportfishing Congress. Decisions will be made in Bismarck next winter and spring that will affect the fishermen of North Dakota for years.

In recent years, two issues have become critically important. One is the constant political threat of other North Dakota Agencies and Politicians raiding the Game & Fish reserve fund dollars for their special interest projects. Of particular concern is the use of those dollars for the Department of Parks and Recreation construction projects which charge a fee for public usage and also the use of those dollars to support private development on Lake Sakakawea. NDSFC has consistently resisted those efforts and will continue to do so. We are not against improving parks or against development of super-marinas, but not with Game and Fish, user generated, dollars. In fact we have consistently supported these activities but not with G&F money.

The other major concern is the threat of Aquatic Nuisance Species to North Dakota waters. We have an ever increasing number of fishermen, waterfowl hunters and boaters coming to enjoy our lakes and rivers from other states as well as our boaters going to other waters and then returning. Every time a boat goes from one body of water to another, there is the potential for irreversible introduction of a foreign species which could severely damage that fishery. We need to educate and police ourselves and others constantly to prevent cross contamination of our waters. Game & Fish has lots of information on how to prevent this and there are now state regulations and penalties for those who violate those regulations. **WE HAVE SEEN THE ENEMY AND IT IS US.** So keep your boats, trailers and livewells clean.

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress supports a full-time lobbyist in Bismarck during the Legislative Session. In the past, we have shared this position with Friends of Lake Sakakawea, but conflicts in our separate missions have led to some strong disagreements and this year we will be supporting our lobbyist without Friends. Because of that, we need your support even more than usual. Be sure to renew your membership, get your friends to join and if you can make it, come to the Fundraiser on April 12th at the Mandan Eagles, have a good time and support the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress.

SPRING NEWSLETTER – Look for the Spring Newsletter to be out May 1st. Reports from Game & Fish, Corps of Engineers, Fish Hatcheries, Parks and Recreation as well as club information, Annual Meeting info and a statewide “calendar of events” will be included. Share with your friends. Get them to support the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress. This is particularly important in a legislative year.

Good Fishin'

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Clark Williams, Devils Lake (701-662-5008)
Past President Duaine Ash, Devils Lake (701-662-3989)
Vice President Lynn Schlueter, Devils Lake (701-662-1772)
Treasurer Rick Eagleson, Fargo (701-235-6536)
Directors Mike Anderson, Bismarck (701-224-9048)
 Don Baasch, Valley City (701-845-1693)
 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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NDSFC BOARD MEETING

You are cordially invited to the Annual Board Meeting of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress. The Board meeting will be held the same day as the Fundraiser, April 12th at 10:00 a.m. at the Mandan Eagles. The Board meeting will include Congress reports, elections, reports from member clubs and guest speakers. Guest speakers include the following:

North Dakota Game & Fish

- **Greg Power:** Fisheries Division Chief
- **Lynn Schlueter:** Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator
- **Dave Fryda:** Fisheries Supervisor-Lake Sakakawea
- **Paul Bailey:** District Fisheries Supervisor-Missouri River
- **Randy Hiltner:** District Fisheries Supervisor-Devils Lake

Other Company Representatives

- **Jason Johnston:** Projects and Maintenance, Parks & Rec
- **Phil Brown:** Lake Manager, Garrison: US Army Corps of Engineers
- **Rob Holm:** Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, US Fish and Wildlife

The Public is welcome; bring a friend.

NDSFC ELECTIONS

Three Board Member positions and the Vice President position are up for election this year. Members interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact Clark Williams at shadrap@gondtc.com.

All members, including those without club affiliation, are eligible to run for these positions. Voting will be at the Annual Board Meeting the morning of April 12th at the Mandan Eagles.



14TH Annual Sportsmen's Smoker & Raffle

Sponsored by: *North Dakota Sportfishing Congress*

- When:** **Saturday, April 12, 2008**
- Following Annual Meeting (10:00 a.m.)
 - Social starts @ 6:00 p.m.
- Where:** Eagles Club, Mandan [1400 Collins Ave]
- Tickets:** **\$25.00 Includes**
- Buffet Dinner
 - 4 Cash Door Prizes - \$500, \$100, \$50 (2)
 - Advanced Ticket Sales Only
- 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)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



The **Ron Liudahl Endowment Scholarship** has been established with the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF).

Fund Background: This endowment was created by Judith Liudahl and Stephanie (Liudahl) Harr in honor of

Ronald D. Liudahl, husband and father and co-founded with the Dakota Anglers. Ron had a passion for preservation and enrichment of North Dakota's wildlife and fisheries.

Eligibility Requirements: The Ronald D. Liudahl Endowment will support undergraduate students whose interests and activities are to enter into an academic field of wildlife management and/or fisheries biology. Applicable programs are:

- Fisheries and Wildlife (Bachelor of Science, Valley City State University of North Dakota, Valley City) Division of Mathematics, Science and Health & Physical Education

- Natural Resources Management (Bachelor of Science, North Dakota State University – Fargo)
- Fisheries and Wildlife Biology (Bachelor of Science, University of North Dakota – Grand Forks)
- Fisheries and Wildlife Biology (Bachelor of Science, Minot State University/Bottineau – University North Dakota (Grand Forks))

DEADLINE for applications is May 15, 2008.

For more details and an application form, visit the NDCF website:

<http://www.ndcf.net/Scholarships/RonLiudahlApplication.asp>

You will also find information on how to make your tax deductible donation to the fund. Donations can be mailed to:

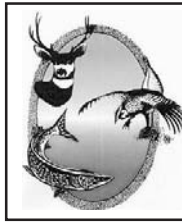
The North Dakota Community Foundation
309 N. Mandan Street, Suite 2
PO Box 387
Bismarck, ND 58502-0387

GAME AND FISH PERSPECTIVES

by Greg Power

Another fishing season is upon us and unlike last year, there are a number of new regulations that all need to be aware of and follow. Seldom (if ever) in the past was there a short time period when fishing proclamation changes and new administrative rules came into being at the same time – that will be the case when the new fishing season begins April 1st. Biological need and public input were instrumental in developing and guiding these new regulations ... and interest and concerns by Sportfishing Congress membership were helpful in this process. Drafts of some of these changes (ANS) were shared in previous newsletters. Although there was a slight overall increase in the number of proclamation changes compared to the last period, many of these changes were intended to simply clarify areas of past confusion.

It is important to get this new information out to all those who fish thus the following is a brief summary and explanation of the new regulations.



New or Modified Administrative Rules

- ◆ Any container used to hold bait must be free of aquatic vegetation when transporting.
- ◆ All watercraft, trailers, motors and other recreational and construction equipment must be free of aquatic vegetation when leaving a water body. This includes all built-in structures.
- ◆ All water must be drained from watercraft (including motors and bilges), recreational, commercial, and construction equipment when leaving a water body (exception – water in live wells for bait and/or game fish can still be used for transport).
- ◆ Operators and haulers of all watercraft and recreational, commercial or construction equipment must inspect their equipment for aquatic nuisance species when removed from waters of the state or upon entering the state. If present, the aquatic nuisance species must be physically removed immediately.
- ◆ It is illegal to import fathead minnows or stickleback into the state.

Proclamation

- ◆ Spottail shiners will no longer be considered a legal live bait fish.
- ◆ Establishes a wanton waste restriction. No person shall possess any game fish species then waste, destroy or abandon the edible flesh (fillets).
- ◆ Clarifies there is no storage limit at one's personal permanent residence for fish fillets; however, at no time may a person transport more than a possession limit.
- ◆ Clarifies that gifting fish is legal. However, gifted fish including packages of fish must be accompanied with the following information from the individual gifting the fish: name, fishing license number, phone number, date and species and number of fish gifted.

- ◆ The packaging of fish away from one's permanent residence must be done in such a manner that the number of fish in each package may be easily determined.
- ◆ Added two weeks to the backside of the dark house spear fishing season (will now run through March 15).
- ◆ Opened 16 new lakes to dark house spear fishing.
- ◆ Removed the maximum size (12" diameter) of a hole while ice fishing. However, when a hole greater than 10 inches in diameter is left in the ice after ice fishing or when a dark house is moved, the hole must be adequately marked with a natural object or colored or painted wooden lathe which must be visible from a minimum of 150 feet.
- ◆ Clarifies that it is illegal to introduce any substance in waters of the state for the purpose of attracting fish that is not attached or applied to a lure. Decoys used for dark house spear fishing are excluded.
- ◆ In years when the paddlefish harvest cap (1000 fish) is projected to be met before the end of the season (May 31st), changed the 60 hour public notice to close paddlefish season to 36 hours.
- ◆ Eliminated the 14" minimum walleye size limit on Lake Elsie, Brewer Lake, and Dead Colt Creek Dam; struck all size restrictions for Sprague Lake and Lake Tewaukon.
- ◆ It shall be illegal to leave fish houses on state-owned or managed land after March 15 of each fishing year (changed from April 1).

In all cases, public input is sought when regulation changes are proposed and such was the case this past year. Favorable comments were received on many of these changes. North Dakota's fishing regulations are fairly straightforward and hopefully simple to follow. By keeping our regulations simple, all anglers can relax and enjoy themselves while participating in fishing.

Spring is very near and as always some of the best fishing of the year awaits. Lake Sakakawea continues to suffer from both the chronic lack of water and depressed forage; nonetheless, there continues to be a fair walleye population and with (relatively) good access, fishing should be good. The Missouri River should again provide ample opportunity to hook a walleye of all sizes and the overall population is in very good shape. Likewise, Devils Lake will offer great fishing not only for walleye, but also for the very abundant northern pike, as well as white bass and some yellow perch. Beyond the big three, North Dakota continues to offer more than 280 other water bodies to fish, many of them supporting good fish populations – some that come quickly to mind include Jamestown Reservoir, Lake Ashtabula, Lake Audubon, Heart Butte, Stump Lake, the Red River plus numerous others, many near your back yard.

Don't procrastinate this spring ... get out and wet a line!!!

Happy angling!



LURE 'EM' FOR LIFE

by Joe Neuenschwander, Vice President



LURE 'EM' FOR LIFE MISSION STATEMENT:

To encourage and promote good fellowship among men" women & children during the conservation and improvement of all sport fisheries and to provide education of fishing through a fish camp and related activities open to members and volunteers for the benefit of persons of all ages.

Lure 'Em' For Life is a statewide volunteer organization of North Dakota Game & Fish Volunteers established to provide fishing education to people of all ages.

We have conducted a week long fish camp on the north shores of Lake Sakakawea near Garrison for the past 17 or 18 years. In 2004, we started volunteering for the Devils Lake Parks & Rec Department to do a week long camp for kids ages 8 to 14 years of age. This year will be our fifth camp on Devils Lake.

Each camp costs our organization around \$5,000.00 and the only reimbursement that we receive is the gas for the boats for the Devils Lake camp. Other monies come through grants from the Game & Fish Department, business donations, memorials, tournament proceeds, membership dues and discounts on supplies or donated bait.

Specific details as to the educational services that we provide at week-long camps, evening and weekend seminars are available. Groups that we have provided evening and weekend services are Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Head Start, 4-H Clubs, Youth Conservation Corps, children whose parent or parents of National Guard and Reservists who had been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, Women And Fathers. The women classes are taught by women volunteers, The fathers Are taught fishing techniques so they may educate their own children.

Our officers and Board members are from Bismarck, Fargo, Center, Minot, Valley City and Jamestown. Members are from Marion, Dickinson, Mandan, Mort, Parshall, Devils Lake, Williston and Garrison. There are two members from Minnesota and one from Boise, ID.

Should anyone need more information on our organization or need clarification on any of the above, contact me at 701-255-3162.

BIS-MAN REEL & REC

by Dave Bement



The Bis-Man Reel and Rec Club is having three events this spring and summer.

The first event will be the 27th Annual Spring Walleye Derby & Fish Fry. **Wednesday, May 14th**, the Rules Meeting will be at the Elks Lodge in Bismarck. The Social & Raffle will start at 6:00 p.m., with the General Membership and Rules Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

- ✓ **Thursday, May 15th** is a pre-fishing day, starting out of Graner's bottoms, 14 miles south of Mandan, N.D.
- ✓ **Friday, May 16th** is a pre-fishing day and the Wall-eye Fish fry starting at the Graner's bottoms main shelter about 6:00 p.m. or when the oil is boiling and goes until the free fish is gone.
- ✓ **Saturday, May 17th**, the 27th Annual Spring Walleye Derby begins with 1st flight at 8:00 a.m. There will be fish related activities for the younger fishermen about 11:00a.m. luremaking, casting contests, etc. Weigh-in at 4:00 p.m. and awards at 5:00 p.m. Famous Dave's will be serving from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

The second event this year will be the Missouri River Users Group. We will be participating in a Fun, Sun & Safety Day at Moritz Sport Marine, Mandan, ND. We will be meeting Fisherman, Houseboaters, Speedboaters, Riverboaters, Kayaks & Canoers. Safety is the main issue for all of us on the Missouri. There are 50,000 watercraft registered in ND and only 15,000 people who have been certified in the Boat and Water Safety Course. The Rules of the Road are similar to the rules on the water, without these you have chaos much like weekends on the Missouri. Solutions abound!

Our third event is the 27th Annual Take-a-Kid Fishing Day on **Saturday, June 7th** at Sweet Briar Dam, 17 miles west of Bismarck. The campers show up at Sweet Briar on Friday afternoon to set up the campsite for the kids day on Saturday morning. A full day of just fishing for these kids.



Anyone wanting to get involved, members or not, please contact me, Dave BeMent 258-3583 or via e-mail at davebement@hotmail.com.

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS)

LOSE the HITCHHIKERS
or
LOSE the LAKE
It's YOUR CHOICE!

If you have any questions about ANS, 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://www.gf.nd.gov/fishing/ans.html>



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., 04/09.)

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 2008-09, 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 _____

NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

Formed in 1986, the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC) gives the North Dakota sportfishermen a unified voice that can respond to a wide range of issues concerning the fishing resource and recreational fishing. The NDSFC is the umbrella organization for all the fishing clubs of North Dakota as well as individual member fishermen. Its primary purpose is to be the liaison between North Dakota's recreational anglers, and the North Dakota Game & Fish Department. The organizations NDSFC works most closely with include:

- State of North Dakota Administration and Legislature
- North Dakota Game and Fish Department
- United States Congressional Delegates
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- North Dakota Parks and Recreation
- State Water Commission
- US Fish and Wildlife
- US Federal Hatcheries
- North Dakota Department of Health
- North Dakota Tourism Department
- ND Legislature's Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee

The NDSFC has a **full-time Lobbyist** during the Bi-annual Legislative Session. The NDSFC efforts concentrate on sportfishing issues that have statewide significance. In recent years, NDSFC has focused on certain specific areas

and provided timely information to its members on:

- Supporting the Game & Fish Department in their mission
- Protecting Game & Fish funding from outside special interests
- Promoting fishing access throughout the state
- Promoting the prevention of Aquatic Nuisance Species introduction
- Development of the Lake Sakakawea Corps of Engineers Master Plan

The NDSFC works with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, member clubs, and individual members to enhance the fishing and fishing opportunities in the state. The NDSFC is a ready conduit for timely distribution of important sportfishing information to members and clubs.

The activities supported by NDSFC membership and by your membership include:

- ✓ Correspondence with individual members and member clubs;
- ✓ Providing a website on which each member clubs has their own webpage;
- ✓ Email and phone tree that allows quick dissemination of information to member organizations and feedback to NDSFC and the North Dakota Game & Fish Department;
- ✓ Spring Annual Meeting and fundraiser in Bismarck;
- ✓ Three newsletters per year; and
- ✓ Representing the NDSFC at meetings pertaining to – Lake Sakakawea Master Plan, access at Lake Sakakawea, Devils Lake, and the Missouri River, permits for fishing tournaments, and prevention of the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species.

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