

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

Volume 12-01 March 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Clark Williams



Prez Sez

THE SILENT WAR WE ARE LOSING

A month or so, I sent out a rather scathing letter to the Clubs about my concerns with the direction the North Dakota Game and Fish Department has taken primarily in preventing the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species. It has

been pointed out to me, correctly, that much of what I said was inflammatory and if not true, certainly very slanted.

In retrospect, I have to agree that those people have a point. It was never my objective to throw the entire Department under the bus. The professionals of the North Dakota Game and Fish do a wonderful job in what they do. I would like to apologize and thank them for all their efforts. Nevertheless, I think we could do so much more. The Department is the smallest Game and Fish Department in the United States. North Dakota's Fishing Licenses are the second cheapest and G&F has a \$32 million reserve.

With three world class, huge fisheries and over a hundred smaller ones, there simply isn't enough fishery biologists and game wardens to go around. WHY? If North Dakota only had to worry about North Dakota fishermen and North Dakota waters that would be enough. Unfortunately that is not the case. We have fishermen and hunters coming to enjoy our waters from all over the country, especially from east of us in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Nebraska. North Dakota fishermen also travel to these states to fish and then return home. Over 50% of

the fishermen on Devils Lake in June are from out of state.

Many of these out-of-state waters hold species of fish, parasites, weeds, viruses, and other aquatic creatures such a zebra mussels that are destructive to our fisheries, our water supplies and our industries that utilize our waters. Boats, livewells, bilges, barges, decoys, etc. can carry these nasty critters from one body of water to another and once they set up shop, it's over. Getting rid of them is all but impossible.

Many western states have 100% inspection and decontamination at every boat ramp on certain bodies of water. In North Dakota at present, we have Information and Education, and that's basically only for our in-state fishermen. We have laws to prevent transport, but very little actual inspection.

Our present policy all but guarantees that in the very near future, we will have lost the battle to zebra mussels, VHS, Curly Pondweed and many other species that will forever change our way of fishing and the cost of utilizing water for drinking and industry.

We have the money and the ability to increase revenues to support a much more aggressive program of inspection and law enforcement to protect our waters. Do we have the will to do so?

Clark Williams, President North Dakota Sportfishing Congress

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18[™] Annual Sportsmen's Smoker and Raffle

Sponsored by: North Dakota Sportfishing Congress

When: Saturday, April 14, 2012

Following Annual Meeting

Where: Eagles Club, Mandan

Tickets: \$25.00 Includes Buffet Dinner;

4 Cash Door Prizes-\$500, \$100, 50 (2)

Time: Cash Bar & Raffles begin at 6:00 pm

Buffet Dinner 7:30 pm

Activities: Raffles Throughout the Evening

Tickets: Contact Mike Anderson 701-224-9048

or manderson@bis.midco.net



SPORTFISHING CONGRESS GUN RAFFLE

Every year, the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress holds a gun raffle to help raise money to support our efforts in supporting your fishing interests.

This year, we are raffling off a Benelli Nove 12ga

Shotgun and a Tikka T3 300wsn Rifle. Tickets are \$5 in books of 10. The drawing will be at the ND Sportfishing Congress Fundraiser in Mandan on April 14th. Winners need not be present.



If you would like a ticket or could sell a book or two contact Clark Williams at 701-662-5008 or shadrap@gondtc.com.



WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

Formed in 1986, the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC) gives the North Dakota fishermen 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 and Fish Department. The organizations that 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 <u>full-time Lobbyist</u> during the Bi-annual Legislative Session. The NDSFC efforts concentrate on fishing 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 and Fish Department in their mission
- Protecting Game and 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 club has their own webpage;
- Email and phone tree that allows quick distribution of information to member organizations and feedback to NDSFC and the North Dakota Game & Fish Department;
- Spring Annual Meeting and fundraiser in Bismarck;
- 3 newsletters per year;
- Representing the NDSFC at meetings pertaining to Lake Access at Lake Sakakawea, Devils Lake, and the Missouri River, Fishing, Tournaments Rules, Regulations and Permits, prevention of the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species, Report All Poachers Committee.



ND GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

by Greg Power

Recently, some on the Sportfishing Congress executive board have urged others to call upon more North Dakota

Game and Fish Department (Department) funding to address various issues related to North Dakota's fisheries. In particular, there has been a call for more Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) funding. Since the ANS program has been a hot topic, this would be a good time to take a look at where we're at and the direction the Department is going. (Note – I hate to bore one with numbers/facts, but information is knowledge.)

Fishery management in North Dakota has dealt with ANS for decades, way before there was descriptive terminology and nationwide interest. Common carp populations are a good example. Carp have been in some of North Dakota waters for more than a century and are by far and wide the number one ANS in the state. Fisheries staff has spent countless hours and angler dollars in an attempt to address this issue. Simply put, common carp have created a lot of hardship and we wish this species would never have made its way into North Dakota waters.

Much more recently, other threatening ANS have either entered North Dakota, or are ever closer. In an ongoing effort to deal with these threats, the North Dakota Legislature formally established the Aquatic Nuisance Species program in 2005, and a few years later (2008) the first ANS regulations became effective. From the beginning, prevention has been the foundation of the Departments ANS program.

The following is a time line and benchmarks that have been addressed/achieved during the first seven years of the ANS program:

- ✓ 2005 ANS program established by the Legislature; ANS committee formed (termed AISC), representing governmental agencies and private interests.
- ✓ 2006 ANS management plan written and adopted. Department established a species list of ANS and a classification system. Developed different monitoring protocols and an infestation response plan. Also, reviewed the Department's internal protocols regarding sampling lakes, etc., to ensure that the Game and Fish doesn't inadvertently move ANS during daily work activities.
- ✓ 2007 Addressed various species risk assessments and developed first drafts of proposed ANS rules and regulations. Began concerted effort on ANS public outreach, including attempts to engage fishing clubs and bait vendors.
- ✓ 2008 First ANS administrative rules became effective. Enforcement began to be formally engaged. Sought and gained additional funding through federal aid. Signing at all access sites at all water bodies. Continued expanding Information/

education efforts. Hired additional seasonal staff to assist with statewide monitoring efforts. New requirement that nonresident sources of aquatic bait (wholesalers) need to pass a Department on-site inspection before import permits can be issued. Post-contest ANS inspection forms required to be submitted by all tournament sponsors.

- ✓ 2009 Significant time and effort in the late 2000s addressing needed permitting of bait vendors and private fish hatcheries to address this potential and serious ANS pathway. Subsequently, respective administrative rules were developed and adopted. First game warden check station set up. Developed internal process for inspecting barges, etc., entering the state and recommendations to fishing tournaments for their own boat inspections. First ANS citation written by enforcement.
- ✓ 2010 Further ramped up I/E efforts, including statewide newspaper ads, in-state and out-of-state (Minnesota) magazine ads, both AM and FM radio advertising, numerous electronic (including websites) messaging, billboards and television shows. Adopted additional ANS administrative rules to greatly restrict the transport of "water" in North Dakota; ANS beginning to have increased emphasis on incorporating rules and subsequent compliance (enforcement).
- ✓ 2011 Mandatory boat inspections prior to any prefishing for all out-of-state sponsored tournaments. Further increased inspections of incoming barges and other aquatic equipment coming into the state, most destined for Lake Sakakawea (related to oil activity).

There are approximately eighty (80) identified strategies to address identified issues/concerns within North Dakota's ANS Management Plan. Of these, the vast majority have been considered and are being addressed. Many/most are ongoing thus will require perpetual attention.

All of the above was/is being dealt with while at the same time continuing to manage expensive and ongoing projects dealing with carp populations and biological threats (e.g. Dickinson Reservoir eradication, Loma Berm, Rock Lake survey, Michigan Drain, etc.).

The ANS budget has increased more than 50 percent in the past few years to meet ANS threats. In fact, in 2010 (the most recent year when budgets could be compared) the North Dakota ANS budget was 10-15 percent of neighboring Minnesota – a much larger state with nearly nine times the licensed anglers, 15 times the fishing water bodies, and 18 times the registered boats as in North Dakota.

The Department has a long history of being responsive to new and real threats. Department staff, starting

RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB WAHPETON, ND

by Wayne Beyer

Plans to take youths spear fishing this winter did not materialize due to unsafe ice conditions at Grass Lake near Lidgerwood. As of this writing, the Neil Heitkamp Ice Fishing Derby, originally scheduled on Saturday, March 3rd also appears doubtful because of ice conditions.

The 29th Annual Vince Herding Youth Fishing Derby is scheduled on Saturday, May 5th. Fishing is on the Red River and the weigh station is located at the Kidder Recreation Area. Awards and door prizes will be given away. Open hours: 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Many door prizes & trophies for youths. Entry fee: Free.

The 14th Annual Dick Bell Catfish Tournament is scheduled on Saturday, June 2nd. Tournament headquarters are at the Kidder Recreation Area in north Wahpeton. The entry fee is \$10. Fishermen can use boats or fish from shore. Prizes will be awarded on a 100% payback scale. 10% of the tournament proceeds will be used for Red River development projects at the Kidder Recreation Area.

The Red River Area Sportsmen's Club is sponsoring a \$100 cash prize for the largest catfish in the adult division and \$50 cash prize for the largest catfish in the youth division. North Dakota Game & Fish Department fishing regulations will be strictly enforced.

Barnes County Wildlife Federation

by Perry Kapaun, President

The 23rd annual Barnes Co. Wildlife Walleye Tourney on Lake Ashtabula June 9 & 10 with \$10,600.00 prize money up for grabs.



For information, contact Perry @ 701-490-1797



Lake Region Anglers Association

by Clark Williams

For those of you who fish or would like to fish Devils Lake, it should be very good this year.

Access: The roads should be better, Hwy 19 is paved, much of Hwy 57/20 will be good. There is a new ramp on Pelican. Round Lake Ramp serves the west Flats. Esteson's off Hwy 20 serve the east part of the lake. East Bay is built up and Lakewood has a new ramp with better grade. Hengar will finally be open again. The road to Grahams Island State Park will be under construction but you should still be able to get there.

<u>Lake Levels</u>: with the lack of snow, the lake may actually be lower and we may be able to get under most bridge, that will open up where you can go.

<u>Fishing</u>: With stable lake levels weed beds will stabilize and fishing should be great. Winter fishing has been the best it's been in years so look out. Large perch in numbers are being caught again. Fall fishermen caught many double digit walleyes so they are out there.

Lake Region Tournaments and outing are listed on the <u>Lake Region Calendar</u>. No professional tournaments are being held in North Dakota this year so it's an opportunity for us amateurs to shine. The 35th Annual Devils Lake Chamber Tournament and the Spirit Lake Casino Cup are again being held in June and are really enjoyable events. Give them a try, contact info is on the calendar.

Lake Region Anglers will hold their Annual Meeting on March 23rd at the KC's in Devils Lake. A fun kick-off of the fishing season. Try to stop by if you can make it.

Good Fishing

Game & Fish Update - continued from Page 1

with the ANS Coordinator (Lynn Schlueter) working with the AISC Committee, as well as all field biologists, have done a remarkable job of developing "checks and balances" that are slowing the spread of ANS into North Dakota waters. The restrictive suite of new rules and regulations implemented the past few years is additional evidence of a progressive approach. Nonetheless, the Departments budget (angler and hunter dollars) will undoubtedly and unfortunately need to grow to keep up with the threat ... BUT it needs to be done judiciously (spending money for the sake of spending money does little in terms of resource protection). In the course of the next few months, Department biologists will evaluate the current progress on controlling ANS through identified pathways. After consultation with the AISC committee, these findings will be used as the springboard to tweak the Department's ANS prevention efforts in the months and years to come.

Now for the real good news. North Dakota continues to have a record number of lakes with very promising fishing prospects for the next few years – even if the state enters a drought. Tremendous fishing opportunities should welcome all who will be fishing in North Dakota. With super access to lakes this winter, most fishing reports have been good to very good. Fishing this spring and summer should only get better. Wet a line and happy angling!

NDSFC WEBSITE

Visit us @ www.ndsportfishingcongress.org

The North Dakota Sportfishing Congress website has information about its member fishing clubs (including tournaments and events), as well as updates from the North Dakota Game & Fish Department, US Fish and Wildlife, and much more!

Pay It Forward, Outdoor Traditions Are A Valuable Treasure

Kyle Agre & Scott Brewer



Most, if not all, of us grew up learning about the outdoors from an influential adult. These people may have been fathers, brothers, uncles, grandfathers or friends, but the common thread was that through their actions, enthusiasm

INCORPORATED and words they shared their passion and love of the outdoors with us. It is important that we do not forget their generosity and take advantage of the opportunities we have to pay it forward. Each of us can have a profound affect on the lives of people, young and old, by spending time with them in the outdoors.

The opportunities for us to share experiences in the outdoors are abundant. Often times we look to our own family; sons, daughters, nephews and nieces and feel a sense of duty to pass along the knowledge that we have learned from others. If we are willing to go just one step further, there are many places where other children and/or adults can benefit. The benefits are not only in found in passing down traditions, but in the example that we are setting for others in being educators and sharing

what we know of the outdoors. Be on the lookout for opportunities and get involved in events that promote these values or maybe even start a new event or tradition. The rewards for everyone involved make it worth the effort.

An example of one such event is the "Thank You Veterans" fishing outing where FM Walleyes Unlimited, Muskies, Inc. and YMCA Camp Cormorant have partnered together to







LYNN SCHLUETER RETIRING

Lynn Schlueter, the big fuzzy guy with a beard who is always telling us to drain, clean and disinfect our boats

is retiring. Lynn is the North Dakota State <u>Aquatic Nuisance Species</u> Coordinator and Special Projects Biologist. Lynn also has served as the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress Vice President for the past four years.

Lynn has served for years in various capacities, but in recent years has worked to educate fishermen about the dangers posed by these unwelcome threats and how to keep them out of our waters. Lynn has worked to clean up our state bait dealers to prevent transport of disease. Lynn also spent six years working to prevent Carp from contaminating the Devils Lake Drainage from the Pembina River watershed at Loma. Lynn has worked on so many projects it's hard to keep track of them. He has logged hundreds of thousands of miles.

North Dakota fishermen and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department will be the lesser for your retirement, but you will have more time now to go cat fishing. Good Luck, Lynn and thanks!

bers of FM Walleyes and Muskies, Inc. meet on the beachfront at Camp Cormorant with their boats and fishing equipment to serve as "volunteer guides" for the veterans that they will soon be meeting.

The event begins with veterans and club anglers being paired up for the afternoon. For some of the veterans and anglers it is a time to meet and get to know someone new. For others, this event brings old friends back together as veteran and guide look forward to building on the history they share and spending yet another day on the water together. Once on the water the guides openly communicate to share information about where the fish are biting in an effort to make the afternoon as enjoyable as possible for their very special guests. Whether it ends up being a few nice walleyes in the live well, battling with an angry pike or rambunctious bass, any fish that are brought into the boat are celebrated. Ultimately though, the fish's willingness to cooperate has very little to do with the success of the day. For the veterans it is a chance to be out on the water enjoying the outdoors. In the case of some of these participants, it may be the only time during the year that they have this opportunity. For the volunteer guides it is an opportunity to say "Thank you" to those who have sacrificed so much of their lives in order for us to experience the freedoms that we all have. Many of the guides have expressed the inner peace they get from being part of this event. For most of them it is an annual "can't miss" event.

As the afternoon begins to turn toward evening the boats meet back at the Y-Camp to share stories and a freshly cooked camp meal. From "the big one that got away..." to "the boat that got away..." the mess hall is filled with laughter and conversation.



Lake Region Anglers Association 2012 Fishing Events Calendar

- ✓ Friday, March 23 LRAA Annual Meeting-KC's 7:00 pm
- ✓ Saturday, May 19 LRAA Spring Northern & Walleye Outing-Pelican Marina
- ✓ Saturday, June 2 LRAA East Bay Outing-Esteson's Boat Ramp, Dead Cow Bay
- ✓ Sat-Sun, June 9-10 Casino Classic-Spirit Lake Casino www.spiritlakecasino.com/recreation/marina/walleye-classic-entry-form/
- ✓ Saturday, June 16 LRAA Devils Lake Open-6 Mile Bay Ramp
- ✓ Fri-Sat, June 23-24 DL Chamber Walleye Tournament-Grahams Island State Park
 - Google: Devils Lake Chamber Walleye Fishing Tournament Be sure to check the 35th Annual, 2012
- ✓ Saturday, July 14 Angler Young Angler Tournament-Lakewood Beach
- ✓ Saturday, July 28 LRAA Adult/Child Outing-Lakewood Beach
- ✓ Mon-Fri, Aug 5-10 Lure Em for Life Camp-Lakewood Bible Camp
 - Contact the Devils Lake Park Board 701-662-8243
- ✓ Saturday, August 18 LRAA Walleye Widow Outing-Henegar Boat Ramp

FM WALLEYES - CONTINUE FROM PAGE 5

Dave Harman, YMCA Camp Cormorant Director describes this event as "a fantastic opportunity to bring adults together in this setting that may not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy the lakes and what they have to offer." The evening closes with an informal awards ceremony. Prizes are awarded to the veteran anglers for largest fish, smallest fish and many other categories. After a group photo the veterans leave with the fish they caught, cleaned and packaged by the volunteer guides.

"Events like the Thank You Veterans outing allow our organization to fulfill its' mission of 'promoting conservation, sportsmanship and education with respect to fishing'"



shared FM Walleyes Unlimited president Gary Sauvageau. "The club has made both youth and adult outreach a priority" Sauvageau added, "and we always welcome volunteers willing to help out."

Organizations with missions similar to the YMCA, FM Walleyes Unlimited & Muskies, Inc. are found throughout the Midwest. These active organizations are almost always in the process of planning outreach events or open to the idea of beginning a new one. Get out and get involved, bring your family and friends along. Just like pitching a lure out into your favorite fishing hole, when we take the time to become involved the ripples of our actions will go far beyond the initial splash.



2012 Calendar of Events

TOURNAMENTS

- May 19-20 36th Annual Dakota Anglers Walleye/ Northern Tournament, Jamestown Reservioir. To obtain tournament applications, call Kay Herrick at 701-252-8451 or email Kay at ckherrick@gmail.com.
- June 2 Little Britches Tournament for kids/ adults, Jamestown Reservoir (Free fishing weekend)

MEETINGS (All Vets Club; 7:00 pm)

- March 7th
- March 31st (Awards Banquet)
- April 11th (Annual Meeting)
- May 9th
- August 8th
- November 14th

<u>SUMMER OUTINGS</u> (Fishing tournaments followed by a potluck meal)

- June 16 Fish Fry at Spiritwood Lake
- July 14 Pork Roast at Jamestown Reservoir (Boat Club Bay)
- August 11 Steak Fry at Jamestown Reservoir (Pelican Point Campground)



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., 04/13.)

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 2012-13, 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 <u>Subject</u> 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	NameAddressCityStateZipPhone () Email	
□ \$15 – 3 Years □ \$25 – 5 Years Enclosed: \$	Signature	
NORTH DAKOTA SPORTESING CONGRESS	CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Club Name Address	
P.O. Box 2472 Bismarck, ND 58502	CityStateZip Current President	
□ \$50 - 1 Year	Phone ()	
Each Club Member is represented on the Executive Board by two delegates. Please provide the following information on your current delegates:		
<u>Delegate 1</u>	Delegate 2	
Name	Name	
Address	Address	
Phone () Email	Phone (

MISSOURI RIVER - POST FLOOD CLEAN-UP



Bob Frohlich Fisheries Development Supervisor

The high-water and flooding that was experienced along the Missouri River in 2011 created hardship for thousands of people and left millions of dollars in damages. It will take years to clean up the mess and even longer to heal the

scars that many suffered. In addition to all the homes and private property that was affected by the flood, many public facilities also suffered. Almost all public boating access sites along the Missouri River from the Garrison Dam south to Lake Oahe were inundated and underwater for most of the open water 2011 season. When water levels started to recede late last fall, the damage caused by the high flows and flooding became evident. Many sites had 2-4' of sand deposited across the entire parking area, camping area and boat ramp. Thousands of logs and other debris were spread everywhere and just clearing the access roads to get to those sites took days. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department worked collectively with local managing entities to clear and open as many sites as possible for the popular fall walleye bite. While most of the ramps were opened last fall by simply clearing sand and debris from the ramp and parking lot, there are numerous sites that suffered severe and more extensive damage to the shoreline, parking lot and boat ramp. Currently, there are nine projects identified that require engineering and an estimated 3 million dollars of additional funding to bring them back to their pre-flood condition.

R.A.PREPORT ALL POACHERS 1-800-472-2121

This program encourages people to report fish and wildlife violations, remain anonymous if they prefer, and receive monetary rewards for convictions based on their information. Anonymous callers will be given a special code number and are not required to give their name. Rewards range from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the nature and seriousness of the crime. Call 800-472-2121. Call this number only to report game and fish violations. Note: If calling from outside North Dakota, the number is (701) 328-9921. The reward fund is supported by private donations. If you wish to donate to the RAP program, tax deductible contributions can be sent to RAP, Box 188, Valley City, ND 58072-0188.

Poachers Steal Your Wildlife - Make the Call!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 2472 Bismarck, ND 58502



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