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Volume 11-02

May 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Clark Williams



After two terms as President and two Legislative Sessions, I've found out that one thing you can count on is "STUFF HAPPENS". What I mean is that just when you think things are going along smoothly and under control, WHOOPS, a wrench in the gears, a fly in the ointment. This legislative session was seen as one that contentious fishing issues were non-existence. The big issues were oil and water. Who could snatch the biggest piece of the budget surplus. The Game and Fish budget seemed cut and dried but then special interests and the leadership in the Senate decided they knew better how to spend your fishing and hunting dollars than the Game and Fish. Just like two years ago, when disgruntled Senators worked behind the scene to try to remove significant funding from important projects, special interest groups tried to do the same this year. Luckily cooler heads prevailed and we were able to move forward.

Then the Feds and Fish and Wildlife decided that we really didn't need any fish hatcheries in North Dakota. The Garrison and Valley City Hatcheries are unbelievably productive and cost effective and work so effectively with the North Dakota Game and Fish and the Corps of Engineers. We know the Feds aren't particularly interested in such things. They want to screw up a good thing. Luckily the hatcheries budget is continued for another year but with more cuts. But the writing is on the wall, North Dakota will need to start looking at raising its own fish if it wants to maintain its superior fisheries.

Enough doom and gloom. I live in Devils Lake, the ice just went off, the sun is shining, at least one ramp is functional. I'm going fishing!

*Clark Williams, President
North Dakota Sportfishing Congress*

Mark Your Calendar

**2012
North Dakota
Sportfishing Congress
Fundraiser**

Saturday, April 14th

Mandan Eagles Club

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!



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2011 SPORTSMEN'S SMOKER AND RAFFLE

The Congress' 17th annual fund-raiser was held Saturday, April 9th at the Mandan Eagles Club. Over 180 supporters attended the banquet and activities. A variety of raffles were held throughout the night and raised a record amount for the Congress' lobbying efforts and expenses. Highlighting the evening was the following special raffle winners:

Cash Door Prizes

- \$500 Glenn Anderson, Bismarck
- \$100 Ryan Krapp, Bismarck
- \$50 Diane Dirk, Manxan
- \$50 Howard Sage, Bismarck



Glenn Anderson

Gun Raffle

- Rifle Scott Bachmeier, Mandan
- Shotgun Bruce Terpening, Mandan

Other "Bucket" Drawings

- Fishing Rod Keith Lipp, Bismarck
- Fishing Rod Kevin Fieldsend, Devils Lake
- Browning Riffle Ron Kraft, Bismarck
- Hummingbird Depth Finder Mark Dudgeon, Bismarck

Mark your calendars for next year's Fundraiser Saturday, April 14th at the Mandan Eagles Club



RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB WAHPETON, ND

by Wayne Beyer

Wahpeton Fishing News

The Red River Area Sportsmen's Club of Wahpeton has three fishing derbies scheduled this spring and summer on the Red River, with tournament headquarters at the Kidder Recreation Area in north Wahpeton.

The 28th Annual Vince Herding Youth Fishing Derby is scheduled on Saturday, May 21st. Awards and door prizes will be given away. Open hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There are numerous door prizes and trophies for all the different kinds of fish that can be pulled from the Red River, including smallmouth bass, catfish, redhorse sucker, walleye, sturgeon and who knows!

The 14th Annual Catfish Tournament is scheduled on Saturday, June 4th. The entry fee is \$10, with a 100% payback and extra \$100. There is also a youth division with trophies. As with all tournaments, North Dakota fishing regulations are strictly enforced to protect the channel catfish.

Instead of disappointment after catching fish with rubber lips, the 25th Annual Carp and Sucker Derby devotes an afternoon to catching rough fish. Scheduled on Wednesday, August 3rd from 1:00-5:00 p.m., trophies will be awarded for the ten largest carp or suckers. Like other youth events, there is no entry fee.

2011 MWC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE – WEST DIVISION

June 24-25 - Devils Lake, ND

(*Note: Will be run in conjunction with Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce Tournament.*)

- \$650 entry fee
- \$100 Late fee kicks in at midnight on Sunday, May 29th
- No entries accepted after midnight on Sunday, June 19th

July 22-23 - Lake Oahe, Mobridge, SD

- \$650 entry fee
- \$100 Late fee kicks in at midnight on Sunday, June 26th
- No entries accepted after midnight on Sunday, July 17th

Sept. 16-17 - Cass Lake, Stony Point Resort, MN

- \$650 entry fee
- \$100 Late fee kicks in at midnight on Sunday, Aug. 28th
- No entries accepted after midnight on Sunday, Sept. 11th

Information and registration available at
www.masterswalleyecircuit.com

If you have additional questions, contact MWC toll-free at 877-893-7947.

ND GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

by LR Schlueter
Statewide ANS Coordinator



It is coming up????

The ice is gone and things are coming up. Coming up is the time to get your new fishing license and the boat registered. Use the internet to get the permit. AND with the internet, you can always print a few extra fishing licenses – one for the tackle box, the boat, the pickup, one for the garage wall – you get the message. If you accidentally go into the water, there is another license ready or you can get another printed from the internet.

Coming up could be a problem – ANS is coming up from the east and south. To prevent the spread, North Dakota now requires that the livewell, baitwell, and bilge be drained when you leave the water. You can no longer transport fish in the livewell with water in it – to the cleaning station or home or campsite. You can put the fish in a cooler with ice for the trip home – it is the best for the fish. You cannot use a cooler with water in it to transport gamefish. Live aquatic fishbait can be transported in a container which has 5 gallons or less of water. The water must be free of aquatic vegetation.

Draining off the water is needed to prevent the spread of zebra mussels. This ANS is too close for comfort and we need to take action now. Drop the motor down when you are inspecting the boat, this will drain the engine and lower unit. Pick off aquatic vegetation from the boat, inside and out, from the trailer, and the equipment. Even the small bits of plants pose a threat if moved to another waterbody.

It only takes a couple of minutes to do a complete ANS inspection while the boat drains which makes sure you are ANS free. You, we, all of us want to keep the great fishing we have going for years to come.

For more information, look at <http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/ans-faqs.html> and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's home page on ANS issue. Check out 100th Meridian website at <http://www.100thmeridian.org/> to see how long zebra mussel can remain alive out of water and on-line ANS prevention course.

GARRISON DAM AND VALLEY CITY NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES UPDATE

Submitted by Rob Holm

It's May and I still have snow on my driveway... Hope you all weathered the final (?) blizzard of the year. Speaking of weathering the storm, the Garrison Dam Hatchery appears to have weathered the budget crisis storm of the past few months. Although final budget figures for this year are not yet out, we received word that we made it through 2011 appropriations with our budget fairly intact. I appreciate the support of the Sportfishing Congress and its membership in making your voices heard. No doubt some stormy weather is going to hit once again as the 2012 budget process heats up – stay tuned as we'll need all the support we can muster up.

Trout stockings are in full swing with the North Dakota Game and Fish distribution trucks loading up on a daily basis for the past few weeks. The trout stockings are targeting many urban ponds across the state and we're releasing over 60,000 ten inchers so there should be plenty of pole bending opportunities. Consider taking a neighbor kid, a grandkid (or one of your own) on a fishing excursion. Check out the Game and Fish website for trout stocking locations, the bite should be on.

Salmon stockings are again on in Lake Sakakawea with 250,000 five inch fish being released this spring. With the smelt population on the rebound, the quality of salmon fishery has been on the rise. If you haven't given salmon fishing a try, maybe now's the time to get started. Remember to mark your calendars for a trip to the hatchery in October to watch the salmon migration and spawning activities at the hatchery. If trout and salmon fishing are on your bucket list make sure you spend some time fishing the Lake Sakakawea tailwaters. Each spring we release 40,000 catchable trout in the tailwaters - a combination of brown, cut-throat and Hot Creek or Firehole rainbows. The opportunity is there to set a state record and there aren't many fishermen targeting those species. Your next trip may put your name in the record book!

Pike egg collections went well this year with Lake Oahe's Beaver Bay and Spiritwood/Alkali Lake providing all the northern pike eggs – total collections 19.3 million eggs. The request this year from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is 3.3 million pike fingerlings with Garrison Dam NFH and Valley City NFH each producing about half. There are nearly 100 lakes in North Dakota receiving pike stocking with Lake Ashtabula receiving the largest shipment of 400,000. With the cold weather, walleye spawning has yet to start up but when it does, stand back. We have an all time high request from the Game and Fish of over 10 million. If you recall last year, we set a hatchery record for 10 million so the challenge is on. With

the exception of a couple ponds set up for paddlefish production, both Garrison Dam NFH and Valley City NFH will have all ponds filled with water and walleye! Looks like about 100 lakes are set for walleye stockings with Lake Sakakawea receiving the lion's share at 2.8 million, followed by Darling and Ashtabula at 600,000+. Lakes receiving 100,000 walleye fingerlings or more include Alkaline, Audubon, Bowman-Haley, Buffalo Lodge, Crooked, Dry, Heart Butte, Jamestown, Kraft Slough, Pipestem, Sibley, Stump and Tewaukon. With all the new water out there it looks promising for the future of fisheries in North Dakota – provided we can keep our hatcheries open and operating. Check out the Game and Fish website at <http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/stockinglist.html> for past years stocking information and tips on your next fishing trip. Don't forget to print off a contour map of your favorite fishing lake to take along at <http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/lakedata.html>.

Hey, it's May 2 and the paddlefish season is on. Recall last year the state record was broke on this date with a 130 pounder caught by a 16 year old from Rapid City, South Dakota. I'll be up there with nets later this month with the crew from the North Dakota Game and Fish looking for some paddlefish to take back to the hatchery. We have a request to stock 20,000 paddlefish this year – the last stocking was in 2007. The paddlefish population is struggling somewhat to pull off a good spawn. The last really strong year class was way back in 1995, I believe. We'll keep our fingers crossed that this year's abundance of snow will trigger a successful spawning run for this prehistoric fish. And speaking of dinosaurs, the pallid sturgeon stocking program has been a success. More pallids than ever before were sampled by biologists last year. Some experts think there are more pallids in the ND/MT section of the Missouri River than there ever was – great news for this fish species that nearly went the way of the dinosaur.

That's about a wrap – get out and enjoy the Spring bite. You only go through life once so make the best of it. No excuses this year – the fishing in North Dakota is getting good. By the way, if you are in the area stop by the hatchery, we made some 'home improvements' to the visitor center and aquarium. And if you haven't taken a stroll down the hiking trails at the hatchery you might want to check them out as well. Our web page is also in the process of getting some updates. Don't forget to check us out there as well at <http://www.fws.gov/garrisdam/>.





LAKE REGION ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

by Clark Williams

For those of you who have been out of the country for the past few years, Devils Lake is rising. We came up two feet while the lake was frozen. We're at record highs and still coming up with no end in sight until we overflow and flood Valley City and Fargo on the way to Winnipeg. Lots of talk, lots of meetings, lots of money being spent for roads, dikes, buy-outs. Lots of people losing their homes, farms and the roads to their homes. And the lake keeps rising and getting bigger.

The fishing should be really good if you can get on the water and get there. We are losing multiple ramps and roads to ramps. Game and Fish is working on a couple of new ones and raising the old ones. A regularly updated list of access sites, work and plans can be found on the Game and Fish website. Roads are a mess, I expect Hwy 57 on the reservation to be closed by early summer and stay that way all summer, Hwy 19 may close, Hwy 20 has water over the road, the roads to Minnewaukan's ramp and the Black Tiger Bay ramp are washed out. Grahams Island State Park will probably not open and there is a good chance the road in will go under in the next month. You can't get under the bridges so many area's of the lake are unreachable unless you want to risk dumping off a road grade and having DOT ticket you. Mission Bay, the north end of Six Mile, East Devils Lake will be fish preserves.

But things are looking up. Within a few weeks we should have a few ramps up and running. Its finally getting warmer. A number of events are planned for this summer. Our club is having its 4 regular club outings(see our calendar of events on our Webpage). The Masters Walleye Circuit is having a tournament run in conjunction with the Annual Devils Lake Area Walleye Tournament on June 24-26. Angler Young Angler is again having its kids' tournament this summer. The Casino is having its tournament in June. It looks to be a great year even with the struggles.

With that in mind, I think I'll close and go fishing.

DEAN HILDEBRAND PARK

After Dean Hildebrand retired from the North Dakota Game & Fish Department (ND G & F), he and I fished frequently. The subject of the Prison Property came up frequently as what should happen to the riverfront in the future should it change uses. Dean's vision was to make it into a park area for people to enjoy the outdoors. His vision was to build a boatlanding, provide area for bank fishing and leave the rest natural.



The last legislative session there was talk of selling this parcel of land to help pay for a new penitentiary. There are groups of people now forming to have a hand on the land use of this area. Some are in favor of selling the entire chunk for development; others would like a variation of leaving as is to partial and full development.

Here are my feelings about this area if it should change uses. With Sibley Park close by, that boatlanding should be closed as it is not useable most of the time. Sibley Camping and playground use should continue.

The river front erosion should be stabilized; river channel should be cleaned of debris. A place should be provided for bank fishing. A new boatlanding should be built on the prison land. The treed river front should be left primitive for nature lovers. Hunting on some of the land should be allowed to keep animal populations in check.

If this area is allowed to develop into housing it will be lost forever for the average citizen to view and use the river. One needs to go to the public areas that are along the Missouri River between Bismarck/Mandan that allows public access to see the usage.

Sportfishing Congress should get involved with this to make sure that this keeps in public hand during the next session of the Legislature.

Rynee Kellar

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2012 Annual Meeting &

Fund Raiser is set for
Saturday, April 14



Eagles Club, Mandan



GAME AND FISH PERSPECTIVES

by Greg Power

It's been a very busy spring thus I don't have time to write a full article. Nonetheless here are few spring highlights that may be of interest:

- Northern pike spawn went exceptionally well despite the snow and cold. All the needed eggs were collected in a five day period. Beaver Bay, Lake Oahe was the big producer.
- Walleye egg collection activities haven't even started as of May 2nd. Never in the 60 year history of walleye egg-taking in North Dakota had eggs not been collected in April. Despite the late start, fisheries crews are still hopeful all the needed eggs can be taken at Devils Lake and Lake Sakakawea in the next few weeks. The two federal hatcheries are well on their way in conducting their 'magic' ... once again hopefully producing enough fingerling so the states' waters are adequately stocked.
- Rainbow and brown trout stocking is occurring statewide and will be completed by the middle of May; unfortunately double-crested cormorants are being noted in most lakes. It appears the late spring has delayed the cormorant migration thus many are staged in North Dakota.
- With all the new waters in recent years, fisheries staff continues to trap and transport yellow perch immediately after ice-out to stock these lakes.
- There is likely more water on the states' landscape than any time since the last glaciers melted. Most reservoirs, including the Missouri River System, are at or near record levels and many natural lakes have never been higher. As a result, there are a lot of 'new' homes for new stocking of walleye, pike and/or yellow perch.
- High water has caused some serious erosion on lake shorelines, bordering roads, and at our access areas. Many ramps will need to be extended upward or relocated.
- Devils Lake boat ramp access work continues. By mid/late-May most of the existing sites will have been addressed and boating access to Devils Lake should again be good.
- There have been a lot of public inquiries regarding the new ANS rules and regulations.
- The ND Game and Fish Department budget was finally approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor. Fisheries programs will again be fully funded. There was no new legislation that directly affects fishing (this is good!).
- So far so good on the winterkill. As of May 2nd there have only been ten lakes statewide that have experienced at least a partial winterkill. This list will likely grow in the next week but should be far lower than 30 lakes. Given the severity of this past winter (even spring), the lack of widespread winterkills is somewhat surprising but welcomed.

There should be excellent fishing opportunities spread across North Dakota in the weeks and months to come. I strongly encourage everyone get out and wet a line.



DAKOTA ANGLERS

by Nathan Selchert

The 35th Annual Walleye Northern Tournament on the Jamestown Reservoir will be held as scheduled on May 21st-22nd despite higher than usual water conditions. There are still openings for the tournament at the time of this writing. Contact Kay Herrick at 701-252-8451 or e-mail ckherrick@gmail.com. I hope to see more of you at our summer outings this year!

2011 Calendar of Events

TOURNAMENTS

- **May 21-22** – 35th Annual Dakota Anglers Walleye / Northern Tournament, Jamestown Reservoir
- **June 4** – Little Britches Tournament for kids/adults, Jamestown Reservoir (Free fishing weekend)

MEETINGS (7:00 pm @ All Vets Club)

- May 11th
- August 10th
- November 9th

SUMMER OUTINGS (Fishing tournaments followed by a potluck meal)

- **June 18** – Fish Fry at Spiritwood Lake
- **July 16** – Pork Roast at Jamestown Reservoir (Boat Club Bay)
- **August 18** – 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., 04/12.)

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 2011-12, 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 _____

**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: gf@nd.gov

More information can be found at:
<http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/ans.html>



**R.A.P.
REPORT 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!

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