

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

June 2010

Volume 10-02

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Clark Williams

COMPLACENCY



Well, Well. Another Fishing Season is in full swing. The fishing

prospects for every major and minor body of water in North Dakota is looking up due to the high water. Devils Lake will have access problems but not until later this summer (see the LRAA Access article on page 3). With such a bounty, it's easy to take our fine fishing for granted. This is exactly the time not to.

The Game and Fish Department is totally user funded. Your license fees and boat registration fees pay the freight. Our license fees, both resident and nonresident, are by far the lowest in the surrounding seven state region. Our Resident Licenses are less than half the average for Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming. Our Non-Resident Licenses are only 60% the seven state average. We have arguably the best fishing of all of them. DO WE WANT IT TO STAY THAT WAY?

Our Game and Fish Department does a wonderful job managing our resources. Considering they are the smallest natural resource department of the 50 states, it's amazing what they do. I suggest we help them keep doing a superior job.

The Game and Fish Department would like to increase funding the following:

• Development: Ramps, docks, fishing piers, roads for access.

- Dam Repair: Many smaller reservoirs and their dams are aging and need to be updates and repaired. This is very expensive.
- Additional staff biologists, especially in NE North Dakota. There is only one staff biologist for the Devils Lake system.
- Save Our Lakes (SOL): Helps offset the negative impacts of deteriorating water quality.

I personally would like to see increased funding for ANS enforcement and an increased presence for law enforcement. Our wardens do an excellent job and catch quite a few violators, but the visual deterrent just isn't there most of the time. We never see a visible warden on the water in Devils Lake. Catching the violators after the fact is fine, but very few fishermen and usually only a few informed locals are aware of the bust. This does not provide any deterrent for the rest of the fishermen. After all, how many of us see a highway patrol car and automatically watch our speed and driving habits more without ever seeing anyone pulled over.

We need to work with the Legislature to increase both the Resident and Non-Resident fishing license fees to bring them more in line with our surrounding states. Considering what we spend on fishing a \$5 or even \$10 increase in the Resident License and a \$20 increase in the Non-Resident License (which would still keep us below the seven state average) is insignificant. Consider the potential benefits we as fishermen stand to get in return.

Work with NDSFC and your local club next fall to bring this to the attention of your legislator.

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) Dave Bement, Bismarck (701-258-3583) Ed Dosch, Devils Lake (701-395-4302) Paul Haug, Fargo (701-232-0944) Ron Kraft, Bismarck (701-223-1834) Exec Secretary Marie Hoerner, Bismarck (701-223-8067)

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SPORTFISHING ANNUAL BOARD **MEETING & ELECTIONS**

The Annual Board Meeting of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress was held on Saturday, April 10th at the North Dakota Game and Fish offices. The festivities included presentations by

Game and Fish, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Garrison Fish Hatchery, the US Fish and Wildlife and an informative update on various Missouri River Planning groups by Terry Fleck, Chairman of Friends of Lake Sakakawea.

Phil Brown, US Army Corps of Engineers Lake Manager for Lake



President Clark Williams (L) and Past-President Duaine Ash (R)

Rick Lee on the Board.

A Board Meeting will be held in the fall before the beginning of the Legislative Session to review pertinent legislation, our lobbyist and plans for the Game and Fish budget. The date, time and location of the Board Meeting will be announced by email to members in the fall. Interested members who want to be kept informed about sportfishing issues need to ensure that their email address is included with their ND Sportfishing Congress membership.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



The Annual Meeting & Fund Raiser on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at the Mandan Eagles.



Rob Holm, Garrison Fish Hatchery

Sakakawea who is transferring to Iowa was recognized and thanked for his help and support for the sportfishermen over the years.

Elections for Vice President and three Board Positions were held. Lynn Schlueter, VP and Board Members Paul Haug and Ed Dosch were re-elected for another term and Ron Kraft was nominated and elected to replace

















Lake Region Anglers Association

by Clark Williams

DEVILS LAKE REGION ROADS AND BOATING ACCESS

1451.67 and rising. That's the elevation that Devils Lake was at today. Daily houses and roads are going under. HWY 20 south of Devils Lake is closed and under water in places. NDDOT is doing emergency road stabilization to prevent HWY 57, the main road to the south from going under and hopefully will do the same for HWY 19. Formal construction on raising the Dams (Dike) protecting the City of Devils Lake has begun again with much discussion, hand wringing and dissention about exactly how and where it should go. HWY 19, 57, 20, 281, Woods Rutten Road and others are planned by DOT to be raised but even with these projects "fast tracked" the contracts won't be let until June and construction won't really kick in until at least July.

When it does, it will be slow and difficult to get to where you want to fish. Henegar Landing is closed for the season due to Dike work. The north Minnewaukan Ramp is under water. The Black Tiger Ramp access road is a swamp when it rains and we're waiting for FEMA money to repair it properly. We don't know if there will be a last minute plan to save the road into Grahams Island. There is very limited parking at Lakewood. When the 57/20 construction really kicks in getting to East Bay and the Casino will be a struggle.

As the lake rises, the bridges will become less passable also. If you have a windshield especially be careful if the wind is blowing and watch the weather if you have to go under a bridge on your way back. You might find that you can't get home. Pelican, Mission, East Devils Lake and the north end of Six Mile Bay are only accessible via a bridge.

Keep checking the LRAA webpage and the Devils Lake Area Chamber of Commerce website for information.

Fishing is great, but be careful and enjoy.

GAME & FISH PERSPECTIVES

by Greg Power

The busiest time of the year, mid-April through mid-May, is now behind us and once again our fisheries crews did a great job. Very pleasant (atypical) weather in April helped offset some very long



weeks of work. Often times, the work of our field crews are taken for granted so this would be a good time to provide the Sportfishing Congress newsletter readers a synopsis of what was done in a fiveweek period by one of the nation's smallest Fisheries Division staff.

The egg requests for the two federal hatcheries were met for both northern pike (nearly 250 quarts) and walleye (approximately 500 quarts). Eggs were taken from numerous sites across the state but again Lake Sakakawea, Devils Lake and Oahe (Beaver Bay) provided the majority. The hatcheries reported good eye-up of the eggs and their ponds will receive the needed number of fry for stocking.

With all the new water in the eastern half of the state, there was a need to stock numerous lakes with gravid yellow perch. Thankfully our field staff was able to locate sources of perch and were able to stock approximately 50 lakes with around 400,000 adult perch. Hopefully in years to come, there will be some good ice-fishing for perch anglers. Staff also were able to trap and transport 2300 adult channel catfish and stock them into eight smaller water bodies throughout the state. These catfish, along with the annual rainbow trout stockings from both Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery and Wyoming hatcheries (59,000 trout into 55 water bodies), will provide some steady action in community fisheries this summer. A truck distribution unit was also sent to Pennsylvania to bring back approximately 4000 10 inch muskie that were stocked into Lake Audubon. Collectively, 33,000 miles were driven in this five-week period stocking these fish (with many more miles to travel with the upcoming statewide pike and walleye stocking efforts).

Hundreds of adult paddlefish were again captured and jawtagged in both the Missouri/Yellowstone Rivers above Williston and the Missouri River above Bismarck. This work helps assess population trends and is useful in monitoring the impact of the snag fishery above Williston. We also have staff who work the paddlefish snagging season, collecting valuable biological data and determining if the season needs to be closed early (incidentally that is what occurred this year when the season was closed May 15th).

On the development front, since ice-out our small crew has delivered 21 new docks throughout the state, met contractors and site inspections for 17 new ramp projects, and conducted/completed many maintenance items (such as posting signs) throughout the state between travels. Although work at Devils Lake has been challenging this spring, flooding and associated lake access problems have been particularly bad in a line from Ashley to Devils Lake. Field staff has spent an unusually amount of time this spring addressing flooding issues as it relates to ramps and roads. Lastly, our Save Our Lakes program staff (all one of them!) was busy tree planting around a few lakes and dealing with contractors on pending summer projects.

This is just a little snippet of what is going on and perhaps a bit of the reason a young angler catches a trout at Watford City Pond this summer ... or a family enjoys some quality time away from the weeds fishing on one of the many fishing docks/piers across the state ... or even catching a keeper walleye four years from now from one of a couple hundred of North Dakota water bodies. Collectively these spring efforts will continue to lead to good fishing for years to come.

BARNES COUNTY WILDLIFE FEDERATION

by Perry Kapaun, President

Barnes Co. Wildlife 21st Annual Walleye Tournament is June 12 & 13 on lake Ashtabula. There is \$7,600.00 in prize money . We pay 1st through 20th place and with biggest Northern and Walleye per day. There are still spots open. Contact Perry @ 701-490-1797. We take the rest of the summer off to go fishing. We start are meetings again in the fall.

DAKOTA ANGLERS



Dakota Anglers 2010 Calendar of Events:

TOURNAMENTS

by Nathan Selchert

- May 22-23 34th Annual Dakota Anglers Walleye / Northern Tournament
- June 5Little Britches Tournament for kids/adults, Jamestown Reservoir–Free fishing weekend

<u>**MEETINGS</u>** (7:00 pm @ Buffalo City Grille)</u>

- August 18
- November 17

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

- June 19 Fish Fry at Spiritwood Lake
- August 14 Steak Fry at Jamestown Reservoir (Pelican Point Campground)

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/fishing/ans.html

SHORELINE ACCESS UPDATE ON LAKE SAKAKAWEA

Submitted by Nathan Busche, Park Ranger



Back in 2004, the North Dakota

Game and Fish Department approached the Corps with a request to consider allowing shoreline anglers more accommodating means of access to the waters edge as the reservoir was experiencing low water years. Low water levels had increased the distances to the waters edge ranging from several hundred yards to as much as a mile. This distance had become extremely cumbersome for most of our visitors.

In 2005, as the regional drought conditions continued and the reservoir had receded approximately 30 feet below normal operating elevations (i.e. ~1837.5), the distance to reach the waters edge had increased significantly. In response to this, the Corps implemented the 'Shoreline Access Policy' that authorized the use of motorized vehicles in designated areas on the exposed lake bed. This policy was developed in consultation with our stakeholders. The group had to consider upon completion of an acceptable policy issues such as public safety, private property encroachments, protecting endangered species habitat, and cultural resources.

Since implementation of the policy, the Corps has committed to hosting an annual meeting with the stakeholders to adjust, as needed, the policy to changing reservoir conditions. As new areas are recommended, they are reviewed by Project staff. In some instances, shoreline access areas are not authorized due to safety concerns, terrain conditions that limit drivable access, concerns with effects on endangered species, or cultural resources.

Well, the 2010 recreation season has begun. Currently the reservoir is above normal operating conditions, and is expected to rise a few more feet in the upcoming weeks. As a result of the higher reservoir elevations, Lake Sakakawea has a reduced number of accessible shoreline locations. In 2009 there were 10 drivable shoreline access locations, this year there are only seven (7).

The seven areas that will be open for the summer 2010 recreation season are as follows: Deadman's Bay (west Wolf Creek), Deepwater Area- Fish & Camp Court, Deepwater Area- Low Water, Four Bears, White Earth, Beulah Bay- Pebble Beach, and Renner Bay. The following are prohibitions for the areas: Operating motorized vehicles in a negligent manner, OHV's in areas posted, overnight camping, littering/dumping, open fires, fireworks, leaving property unattended, and launching and/or retrieving watercraft with vehicle from any location other than an authorized boat ramp.

Many people will be glad to see the water up regardless of losing many of the shoreline access areas because now the main ramps and recreation areas have water and the public won't have to travel as far to get to the waters edge. In addition all the flooded vegetation will help out the fishery significantly.

2010 ANS News and Some Not so News Items

by LR Schlueter, ND Game & Fish Dept. ANS Coordinator



Those of us who like to hunt and fish

are working hard to prevent aquatic nuisance species from getting into North Dakota. Another tools is being added to the effort by North Dakota Game and Fish Department's "no water" regulation, which was supported by the public and NDSFC.

In simple terms, the regulation means that anglers and others cannot haul game fish in water when they leave a waterbody, baitfish would have to be in a 5-gallon or less container to be moved from the water body, and the livewell, bait well and bilge would have to be emptied when leaving the lake. The last one is already on the books. These same sportsmen also favored the clarification of bait regulations to protect North Dakota's bait industry, protect our fishing, and keep aquatic nuisance species out of the state.

North Dakota sportspersons (a political correct term for us gals and guys who fish and hunt) are well informed on ANS problems and prevention. They are taking actions needed to keep ANS out of our waters. It is this on-going commitment that keeps North Dakota free and ahead of the ANS infestations. Those who take the responsibility seriously and practice ANS prevention steps are to be commended.

Aquatic nuisance species in our waters equals trouble. Aquatic habitat is lost, fish and other wildlife populations decline, the list goes on. The newest problem being talked about is higher energy bills if ANS gets in the power production cooling lakes. Now even those who don't hunt or fish are going to be affected.

Aquatic nuisance species are close and on the move. For example, someone could fish Minnesota's Pelican Lake, Red or Rainey rivers and then head to Devils Lake or the Missouri River in North Dakota. They can make the trip in one day. If the water they were fishing has zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas, these exotic creatures could easily and unknowingly hitch a ride in water left in the livewell, bait well, bilge or elsewhere.

If precautions weren't taken to get rid of unwanted, exotic hitchhikers, this running and gunning from fishery to fishery becomes a problem.

We're all in this together and can help by reminding one another to take the proper precautions to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species in order to safeguard the quality hunting and fishing we enjoy in North Dakota.

ANS prevention is still the same – clean, drain and dry – and it still works. If you cannot dry it, disinfect it with diluted bleach or power wash the boat, motor, trailer, equipment or anything coming into our out of North Dakota's waters.

For more information about aquatic nuisance species, prevention, regulations and so on, visit the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website at www.gf.nd.gov.

GARRISON DAM NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES UPDATE Submitted by Rob Holm

Spring has arrived...finally. Boats



are busy in the Lake Sakakawea tailrace, not sure if the bite is on or not but the sun sure has brought out the anglers. Trout stockings are in full swing with the ND Game and Fish distribution trucks loading up on a daily basis for the past two weeks. Hopefully the majority of the cormorants have made their way through the state and are not waiting on the boat ramps for the stocking truck. 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.

Egg collections went well this year with Lake Oahe and Devils Lake giving us a big boost with northern pike eggs – total collections 14.3 million eggs. Pike harvest from the hatchery ponds is a little behind schedule due to the coldest first half of May on record but the fish are still there and we should be able to meet our stocking target. Walleye egg collections were a little slow at first with the continual rise of Devils Lake making it difficult to trap broodstock. A shift in gears to Lake Sakakawea proved to be the ticket with a collection of 33.7 million from the lake and 58.9 million walleye eggs total collection. The survival of eggs from Lake Sakakawea was twice that of Devils Lake approaching 60%. And that's good news as Lake Sakakawea is targeted for a stocking of 4 million fingerling walleye in late June – the first stocking since 2005. We plan on marking walleye going into Lake Sakakawea to see how they respond in a lake that is full of water for a change. This year's walleye request is the largest on record and we'll need a good harvest from both the Garrison Dam and Valley City National Fish Hatcheries to meet our goal.

Shifting gears somewhat, for those of you following the pallid sturgeon recovery efforts, first off, there was an adult pallid sturgeon caught by an angler in the Missouri River near Bismarck...and it wasn't the ten foot long white sturgeon I've been sent photos with a half dozen anglers holding. This fish is likely from the Columbia River on the west coast. As a reminder, all sturgeon caught in North Dakota must be released unharmed. Which leads into some good news, as a result of annual stockings of juvenile pallid sturgeon in the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers from Garrison Dam NFH, catching a pallid sturgeon has become much more likely. In fact, biologists went from not finding any juvenile pallid sturgeon a decade ago to collecting one pallid for every three shovelnose sturgeon. This year our stocking request for pallid sturgeon actually went down, considerable.

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.



The fishing clubs Lake Region Anglers Association located out of Devils Lake and FM Walleye's Unlimited, Inc. based out of Fargo-Moorhead would like to invite any of your membership who might be interested fishing in a combination Adult – Youth Fishing Tournament to join us for our 3rd Annual Angler Young Angler (AYA) Devils Lake Regional Fishing Tournament.

Here is an overview of the Angler Young Angler (AYA) Program and some information relating to our local Devils Lake Angler Young Angler Regional event.

The Angler & Young Angler Tournament Outings began in 1998 when its tournament founder Andrew Klopak decided that he wanted to fish in a fun filled yet competitive style fishing tournament with his son and seeing that there were not any tournaments that catered to a combination of adult and young anglers...he decided to create his own.

The success of that original Manitoba tournament in 1998 has lead to the expansion of the Angler Young Angler Program into every one of the Canadian provinces along with 16 events being held here in the US. The Angler Young Angler Tournaments main objective is to introduce and educate young anglers to competitive sport fishing in the company of family and friends with a goal of creating memories that the team members will remember throughout their lifetime. The Angler Young Angler Program is well on its way to accomplishing this goal in 2010 when over 3000 youthful anglers will be participating in the 30 Angler Young Angler Tournaments that will be held throughout the United States and Canada.

The Devils Lake Angler Young Angler Tournament is coordinated through a partnership of the fishing clubs the Lake Region Angler's Association out of Devils Lake, and F-M Walleye's, Inc. out of Fargo-Moorhead. This is third year that our clubs will be coordinating a Angler Young Angler Tournament on Devils Lake with the tournament date scheduled for Saturday July 10th, 2010. The teams that will compete and participate in Angler Young Angler consist of one adult angler and two young anglers, age 17 and under. The entry fee for the Angler Young Angler Tournament is \$150. The fishing hours are from the 8:30 AM blast-off to the 3:30 PM weigh-in with each of the youthful anglers exploring the water in the company of an experienced adult angler in search of the right combination of the 5 walleye needed to take home the first place prize. The kids will wrap up the fishing day by crossing the weigh station at Lakewood Access adjacent to Creel Bay.

The Angler Young Angler Outing includes entertainment by Games Galore, a catered picnic, the fishing day, and ends with an awards presentation all made possible by donations from national and local event sponsors. Every young angler leaves with a prize to congratulate them for their participation and for a great day on the water. The winning team of the Devils Lake Regional Event will go home with a brand new Lund A-12 boat, a 4hp Mercury engine and Shoreland'r trailer! Additionally, the winning team will be invited to represent North Dakota at the 2010 AYA International Championship held on beautiful Lake of the Woods, Kenora, Ontario in August an event that through the collaborative efforts of In-Fisherman television in the United States and Adventures North out of Canada is now shown on outdoor channels throughout North America. The grand prize for winning the International Championship is a week long two tier trip, with tier one encompassing an outing for the team members at a Canadian Fishing lodge before commencing onto the tier two portion taking the team members onto Disney World for the grand prize finale.

If you have an interest in fishing with us or want additional information on the Angler Young Angler Program you may contact any of the Angler Young Angler coordinators listed below with any questions that you may have regarding our event. We will have some applications available through your local fishing club or you may contact us directly and we will e-mail or mail you one of our AYA applications.

Sincerely,

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.

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Poachers Steal Your Wildlife – Make the Call!

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., 04/11.)

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 2010-11, 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.

<u>NOTE</u>: 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!

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Each Club Member is repre following information on ye		Board by two deleg	gates. Ple	ase provide	the
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2010 SPORTSMEN'S SMOKER AND RAFFLE

The Congress' 16th annual fund-raiser was held Friday, April 9th at the Mandan Eagles Club. One hundred seventy-five supporters attended the banquet and a great time was had by all. A variety of raffles were held

throughout the night and raised a near record amount for the Congresses lobbying efforts and administrative expenses. Highlighting the evening was the following special raffle winners:



Cash Door Prizes

\$500 Winner-Kevin Seher

- \$500 Kevin Seher, Baldwin
- \$100 Ron Kraft, Bismarck •
- \$50 Mike Ell, Bismarck
- \$50 Jewel Lambrecht, Bismarck
- Gun Raffle
- Tikka T3 300 WSN Rifle ... William Zimmerman, Gd Fks
- Benelli Nova Shotgun Lynn Schlueter, Devils Lake •



Mark your calendars for next year's Smoker on Saturday, April 9th at the Mandan Eagles Club.





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