

# May 20th... Doublewood Inn ND Game & Fish Department and

## **MN Department of Natural Resources**

Dave Friedl and Philip Seefeldt from the MN Department of Natural Resources have confirmed and Terry Steinwand confirmed he or representative or two from the North Dakota Game & Fish will be the panel for our May 20th Meeting.

Please bring all your questions about your favorite area lakes, rules and regulations. We will have the folks here to provide the answers.

> Doors open at 6:30 and the program will begin at 7:00. This event is free and open to the public.

# **<u>COMING</u>** ATTRACTIONS

Club members and friends will be treated to some great speakers in the months to come. FM Walleyes has signed commitments with some of the most sought after names in the Walleye Fishing Industry for later this year and to start out 2005.

The respect your club has in walleye circles is partly responsible for us to be able to book these respected anglers.

### Mark your calendars:

Chip Leer Tommy Skarlis Gary Parsons November 18, 2004 January 20, 2005 February 17, 2005

### **President's Comments**

Chad Maloy

Gone Fishing. You should be, too.





May 15 MN Walleye Opener

> May 18 Board Meeting

May 20 Regular Meeting MN DNR & ND G&F Update on Regulations and more.

May 25 Boy Scouts Pathways to Fishing

> May 29 MN Bass Opener

June 3 Pelican Classic Rules Meeting 6 pm - Fairhills Resort

> **June 4 & 5** Pelican Classic Tourney Fairhills Resort

> > June 15 Board Meeting

June 17 Regular Meeting Pelican Classic Winners & PK Video

> July 13 Board Meeting

No Regular Meeting in July

ALL MEETINGS AT 7 PM AT THE DOUBLEWOOD INN OF FARGO, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

### April Meeting Review, In-Fisherman's Matt Straw

### by Jeremy Frie

Matt Straw entertained the FM Walleye's crowd on tips to improve the success rate for catching walleyes. Matt began his presentation by saying "Get the live bait out of your boat. It is expensive, stinks, and is generally messy". A good portion of his presentation dealt with the use of plastic baits for catching walleyes. Matt covered about as much information in an hour and a half as can be covered. For the sake of simplicity, I will summarize his presentation with bullet points.

• Fish shallow. Shallow water walleyes are the least pressured fish in the lake. Walleyes, or some significant portion of a lake's population, will remain shallow all summer long. Weeds hold walleyes, especially when the wind blows! Fish in the weed pockets...all summer long!

• When exploring a new body of water, divide the lake into sections (lake within a lake). What is the forage base? Is it perch (most are)? If so, many walleyes will be found shallow. Is the forage base cisco? If so, try fishing suspended over deep water as spring moves into summer.

• Fishing rivers? Try a whistler jig tipped with a plastic body. Seems to work better than a ball head jig.

• Use plastic swim baits or plastic grubs. Matt mentioned several anglers' he knows that won't even use live bait through the ice. If they'll bite plastic in the winter, the odds are fairly good that they will in the summer too.

• The best plastic type to use is the salted type. Salt impregnated plastic is more buoyant and will sink more slowly, allowing the bait to be fished slower. Scented baits are also a good bet though he is more concerned with the action of the bait than the smell. Many of the new plastic worms have great action compared to years past.

• Don't fish plastics like bait. Jigging action is not necessary. Simply cast out into the weed bed (or edge) and reel the plastic back in. Keep the plastic moving!

• Use small, 1/8 oz ball jig heads with shad type swim baits or grubs. Make sure you have at least a 1/0 or 2/0 hook as the plastic can take up quite a bit of hooking space. Use light colored plastic in dark water, natural colors in clear water.

• Crankbaits can be productive all summer long (even early spring). Long minnow bait types seem to produce a bit more than shad baits early in the season. Examples include Deep Thunderstick Jr., Deep Little Rippers, and Dave's Kaboom lures.

- Crankbaits will usually produce larger fish. Plastic swim baits and plastic grubs will also produce larger fish a lot of the time.
- When does Matt go back to live bait rigs? When fishing under a bobber and immediately after a cold front. All other times are plastic only!

Matt also touched on the art of crappie fishing. Crappies will be feeding in areas where zooplankton can be found. 1/80th -1/200th oz jigs made by numerous companies are your best bet for crappies. Don't forget about the Maribou jig. A staple from years past that will still produce crappies. How about crankbaits? Matt has caught many crappie on small crankbaits. Crappies suspending 5-10' under the surface can be targeted with small crankbaits (1-1.5" long minnow type baits).

As mentioned earlier, Matt covered a large amount of information in a short amount of time. If one were to take away two things from the presentation they would be:

Fish shallow and give plastic baits (minnow baits, grubs, or crankbaits) a try!

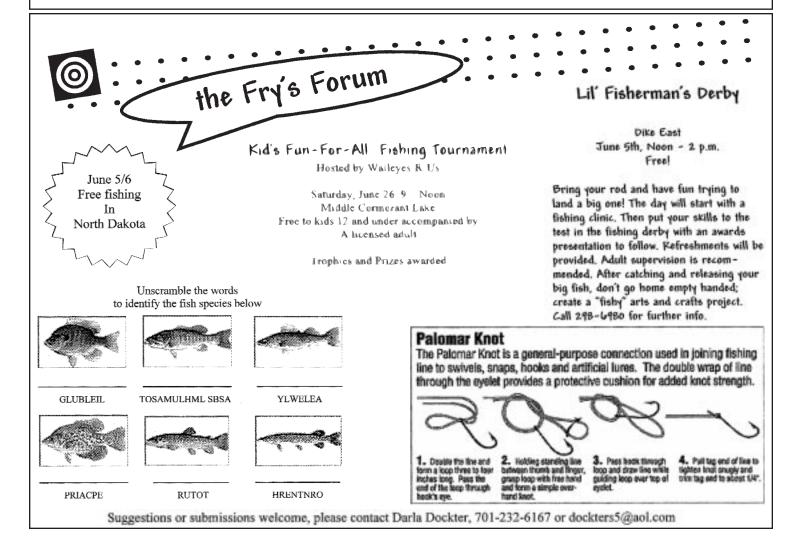


# Leech Lake Club Outing - May 22-23

The Leech Lake outing will be held May 22nd and 23rd. We will have the take-off and weigh-in at the Stony Point Landing. To get to the campground from Walker take Hwy 200 East to Onigum Road (#13) to Fire Road (#3798). Follow FR#3797 to the campground. The landing will be on your right as you enter the campground. Reservations can be made at <u>www.reserveUSA.com</u> or there are many motels and resorts in the area. Weather permitting we'll try to do another cookout Saturday after the weigh-in.

If you have any questions please call: **Scott Stillwell** (H): 218-236-9001 or (C): 701-361-1682 or **Steve Hall** (H): 218-233-7011, (W): 701-237-0435 or (C): 701-261-4379





# Fishing Personalities by Jack Fuller

### "Early Spring Fishing"

I have deviated from my usual format this month for a couple of reasons. One my next interviewee is better suited for June or July and a recent fishing trip provided both excellent fishing, but also had its down side. It disturbed me enough to put it to "pen".

On April 21 and 22, my wife Jan, brother-in-law Mic, and I hit the waters of Devils Lake in search of a few Walleye. Each year about this time we are breaking a little ice to get to our "honey hole". It has always been an adventure to say the least but worth the effort because we usually are rewarded with some very nice Walleyes. Our philosophy has been, take the "eaters" and release the larger fish, the females which are ready to spawn. Our "spot" was barren this year, so we proceeded to inquire where the Walleyes may be. All signs pointed to Channel A. This was our first time fishing in this area. As many of you are aware I'm sure, this is where large fish congregate to feed and fatten up before the spawn. Fishing was super; we felt we had hit the "mother load". After two days of fishing, the three of us caught and released approximately 35 Walleyes between 4 and 8 lbs. and 50 Northern 4 to 13 lbs. It was actually hard to find the eating size males. We did manage to land fifteen 16-19 inch male Walleyes in that period of time however. Of coarse we were not the only ones catching large fish. Oh no! The shoreline and railroad tracks were lined with fishermen as well as 6 or 8 boats in the channel. All were catching large fish.

Here lies the problem or at least in my perspective. Being in close proximity to all of this made it easy to observe that these large fish were not being released but likely going to the frying pan. I was taught that these large females are the egg layers for future class years and that catching and releasing these fish is ecologically prudent for the success of the fishery. We try to encourage and promote this philosophy by teaching our young people to be good stewards of the lakes and waterways. Therefore this disturbed me enough to e-mail N.D. Game and Fish. With the following:

Last week (Thursday and Friday) our party fished Devils Lake in the Channel "A" area. We caught and released many large Walleye and Northern. A problem I noticed is that the channel which was full of boats and many fishing from shore, were not releasing these large female fish ready to spawn. Restrictions should be placed on this area in the spring such as:

1. Size and/or weight limit. • 2. Catch and release only. • 3. No fishing in the channel before a certain date. After the fish have moved out and completed their spawn.

The taking of these large female Northern and Walleye has to have a detrimental effect on the quality of the Devils Lake fishery. Does the N.D. Game and Fish Dept. have a position on this issue? Randy Hiltner, N.D. Game and Fish responded with this: Jack.

I have been forwarded your email concerning the spring fishing at Channel A. Your observations of high fishing effort and foulhooking of pike and walleye are what we've also seen the past two weeks. Fortunately, this spring we have a creel clerk getting us the quantitative data on everything from: fishing effort; harvest; release rates; foul-hooking vs. caught in the mouth, etc. After reviewing this data, we will likely see the fish harvest is not having a significant negative effect on the fish populations but some anglers are bending fishing ethics as these are "fish in a barrel" during high flow years. We have more than enough walleye eggs in the lake to produce a strong hatch, so keeping some big females in April is just as ethical as during June (although I have no idea why someone wants to keep a big fish unless it is for a mount). Again, we will evaluate the information on this spring run at Channel A later this year and discuss the situation to see if it warrants some kind of a closure.

Randy J. Hiltner, District Fisheries Biologist, Devils Lake

I have since heard from other anglers that catch and release in these areas has been treated rather lightly by our enforcement and administrative agencies (Game and Fish). I have no hard evidence of this but certainly hope this is not the case. I would welcome any response to this issue with your opinions. My e-mail address is jackfuller@i29.net.

Just a note to hunters and fishermen planning to stay in Devils Lake. On this trip the three of us booked in at Mike and Sarah's "B.S. Shack", (I think the B.S. must stand for beautiful sunshine). The "Shack", as they call it has some first class accommodations. First off, it is a single story house in Devils Lake that they have completely redone to meet the needs of the sportsman. Here is what we found:

- 1. The house was recently remodeled and painted inside and out.
- 2. All new fixtures including shower, stool, sink, etc. were added in the bathroom. New towels and wash cloths are provided and laundered.
- 3. Washer/dryer and vacuum.
- 4. The Kitchen contains all appliances and utensils.
- 5. Two cable TV, systems.
- 6. A living room with recliner and queen size hide-a-bed.
- 7. Telephone.
- 8. Two bedrooms with both bunk beds and standard size beds. By using the hide-a-bed in the living room, 7-8 people could sleep comfortably.
- 9. The entire house is set in an outdoor decor, very tastefully done.
- 10. In the back there is room to park two vehicle/boat units.
- 11. For the hunters there is an outdoor dog kennel and plans for a fish cleaning station (although there is plenty of room to clean fish indoors).

The best part is it rents for only \$100. Per day. If you do the math you will find it pretty cheap accommodations for most any size party. We were very satisfied with everything we found during our stay. How to book? Call Mike or Sarah at Thirsty's Bar 1-701-662-4212.

# Pathway to Fishing Volunteers Needed

### by Gary Hasse

Again this year, we have been asked to hold a Pathway to Fishing program by the Boy Scouts. The event will be held on Tuesday, May 25 at the Sand Hills Archery Park near West Fargo.

The Pathway session will be a part of the evening's program, which will primarily be a Cub Scout recruiting event. The Scouts will provide a picnic supper, consisting of hot dots, chips and pop for the youngsters and adults that attend. After the picnic the kids will then proceed through the Pathway program and then on the ponds to fish. Last year most all the kids caught fish, which really added a lot of enthusiasm to the affair.

We'll need 15 to 20 volunteers to properly host the Pathway program. Set up will be at 5:00 p.m. Please call or email me or sign up at the May club meeting. I can reached at home, 277-0875; office, 282-2443 or by email, gary@midweek-pioneer.com.

I have procured new fishing rods from the ND Game & Fish Department for the hands-on casting portion of the program.

Northland Fishing Tackle has once again provided jigs, measuring cards and catalogs. We have also received a kit of prizes and goodies from the 2004 Wal-Mart Kids All-American Fishing Derby program. All of these will be distributed to the youngsters as they register for the Pathway program.

Come early, 5:00 p.m. for set up, enjoy a picnic supper on the Scouts, then really start having fun by teaching kids about fishing. We should be finished by 8:00 p.m.

Fishing was good on a recent visit to Devils Lake for Jack, Jan and Mic. After two days of fishing, they had caught and released approximately 35 Walleyes between 4 and 8 lbs. and 50 Northern 4 to 13 lbs.



### April Board Meeting – Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by president Chad Maloy.

Present: Steve Meyer, Bruce Bokinskie, Jeremy Frie, Lynn Johnson, Bob Jensen, Lester Sjoblom, Steve Hall

Absent: Bruce Nereson, Tim Amble, Steve Goldade, Dennis Flom Bob Jensen provided a treasurer's report of \$43,717.57

Minutes from March meeting will need to be corrected to indicate that the \$3000 donated to the Boy Scouts will go towards a needed dock at Camp Wilderness, and not the Ycamp.

#### **Old Business:**

- Pelican Tournament Things are on track. Considering sending out a survey to participants to garner valuable feedback.
- Tournament Trailer Trailer renovation has begun. Steve Meyer will lead the effort to get the trailer good working order.
- Calendar Raffle Update Things are going slow. More tickets need to be sold. There will be an enhanced effort to sell more at the April meeting.
- Dinner Dance Great event. Still a few bills to come in before we can determine net proceeds.
- Angler's Night Successful!
- DL and Fergus Falls rearing pond donations Lynn Johnson motioned to donate \$950 towards DNR in Fergus, seconded by Jeremy Frie. Steve Meyer motioned that we donate \$3180 to DNR in DL, seconded by Lynn Johnson. Both motions passed.
- By Laws Committee Jeremy Frie will divide laws into sections. Each committee member will be responsible for reviewing a specific section. The committee will meet at a later time to review all by-laws.
- Speakers May-DNR, June-Pelican Classic winners, Sept?, Oct?, Nov Chip Leer, Jan Skarlis, Feb Parsons, Mar?. Motion by Meyer, second by Hall to switch Angler's night to Feb 05 and the annual meeting to Mar 05. Passed.

#### New Business:

- Sportfishing Congress update given by Ron Sahr (attended by Sahr and Goldade). Good meeting. Focus was on Lake Sakakewea over 200K will be spent by Corps to open ramps in 04. 20 ramps should be useable.
- YMCA The YMCA presented a plaque to FM Walleyes at a recent appreciation dinner for past service.
- Cormorant Classic Update Discussion to have entry forms sent out to past participants just prior to the Pelican Classic. Forms would be made available to all after that time.
- A discussion was held regarding a classified ads section for our newsletter. Bob Jensen made a motion to look at the feasibility of this as guidelines will need to be developed; seconded by Meyer. Passed. We will make a decision on this at the next board meeting.
- Discussion on the Fry's Forum. Good. Will continue.
- Steve Meyer motioned to use \$250 to purchase prize items for the April meeting. Hall seconded the motion. Passed.
- Motion made by Steve Meyer to adjourn. Second by Lester Sjoblom. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.
- Jeremy Frie

## Angler's Night Review – Sam Anderson

by Jeremy Frie

Walleye pro Sam Anderson provided education and entertainment for the FM Walleyes audience at the annual Angler's Night at Playmakers Pavilion on March 18. Sam learned how to fish Mille Lacs Lake in central Minnesota and began guiding at the age of 14. Sam started his professional career at the age of 18 years old. Sam discussed tackling a new body of water and gave some specifics on techniques.

Search technique – important when tackling a new body of water. Use crankbaits or bottom bouncers to search new areas. These tactics allow you to cover water quickly, eliminating unproductive water and hopefully, leading you to fish. Try to duplicate the pattern after catching a few fish. Once a pattern develops, fine-tune the presentation and start catching fish.

Tools that can help you catch fish:

Drift sock – helps stabilize the boat in windy conditions.

Planer boards - fish are often shallower than you think. Use boards in these situations.

Netting a fish – always let your partner know right away that you have a fish on the line so that he can get ready. Net the fish head first, not tail first. Don't jab at the fish, especially if it is hooked with a crankbait. Simply net the fish with a scooping motion.

Scents – Sam is a believer in scents. Also, consider using a no-scent soap.

PowerBait - catch rate is higher than no-scent baits.

- Trolling use long, soft tip rods. The rods do not have to be expensive. Leadcore is his favorite line to use while trolling. Leadcore is the only line that is speed sensitive. The faster you go, the higher in the water column the bait will run. If you plan to make a lot of turns while trolling, a superbraid such as Fireline is the best choice.
- Bottom bouncers Sam carries 3 sizes 3/4, 1-1/2, and 2 oz. Use a 3-4' leader, beads, a spinner and two hooks. Add a treble hook as the last hook to increase hooking percentage (not legal in all states). Sam uses copper, gold, silver, or firetiger patterns on the blades.

Jigging – Sam uses high vis line 95% of the time. You can see strikes more easily if you can see the line.

Sam ended his presentation by answering questions from the audience. In Sam's words, "Always keep a smile on your face, be friendly at the ramp, and get kids involved in the sport of fishing".







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### FIRST CLUB OUTING ON WAUBAY LAKE AT WEBSTER, SD by Steve Hall

Considering it was early in the season we had a great turn out. The weather was good. We expected the wind, but were pleasantly surprised to have a dry weekend. The outing was held at Breske's Bay Resort. Thanks to Andy and Darlene Breske, who were very gracious in letting us take over their resort for the weekend.

The majority of the walleyes were caught on minnows and jigs in 8 feet water. The average fish weighed 1.21 lbs. An estimated 1000 walleyes were caught and released. Now that's action!

This sparked community spirit and everyone chipped in to either clean or cook fish! The first fish fry of the season seemed to be a success. It was a fun gathering. I hope even more will participate in the next Club Outing on Leech Lake out of Stony Point Campground May 22nd & 23rd. Congratulations to the first three places in each division:

<b>Adult Division</b>	Name	# of fish	lbs.
1st place	SCOTT STILLWELL	3	5.38
2nd place	TAMI STILLWELL	3	5.00
3rd place	DUANE PETERSON	3	3.90
_			
<b>Junior Division</b>	Name	# of fish	lbs.
1.4.1.4.4			
1st place	GRADY STILLWELL	3	6.22
2nd place	GRADY STILLWELL NIKKI HALL	3 3	6.22 5.12

If you have any questions or comments about the Club Outings, please contact us. **Steve Hall:** 218 233-7011 (home) • 701 237-0435 (work) • 701 261-4379 (cell) **Scott Stillwell:** 218 236-9001 (home) • 701 361-1682 (cell)

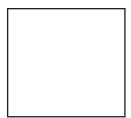


### **Membership Application and Renewal**

F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc walleye fishing, invites you to Application for Membership:	join and actively p	articipate in our fishin	ng club	New 🛛 🖵 Renew		
Name(s)						
Address	City	State	Zi	p		
Phone: Home ()		Work ()		-		
Do you own a boat? 🛛 Yes 🖵 No Would you like to fish with other club members? 🖵 Yes 🖵 No						
E-mail:						
Membership requirements: Persons desiring membership must be those who can act in a sportsmanlike manner and will be a credit to the organization. Receipt of this application, yearly dues and approval of the Board of Directors are required for membership. Mail application to:						
F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Ind	c., PO Box 1017,	Moorhead, MN 56	560.	Office Use Only		
Signature of Applicant: x				PAID Amount DateInit		

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**F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc.** P.O. BOX 1017 MOORHEAD, MN 56560



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