

## **LRAA President Clark Williams Report**

My mind says it's time to get the boat out even if it is still white out. Lake Region Anglers Association (LRAA) is also gearing up for a great soft water season.

Our annual meeting is coming up on March 20th and that means it's time to renew your LRAA dues, as well as your North Dakota fishing license. Also, please support the North Dakota Sport fishing Congress (NDSFC) especially since this is a Legislative Year (see Congress). See "Year in Review" to see what your membership supported in 2007-2008.

One of the most important issues facing the fishing public in this century is the continued spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS). In other words, plants and animals not native to our fishing waters threaten to damage or destroy the water or fishing quality of those waters if they are introduced. Unfortunately, most of the time, they are introduced by well meaning anglers traveling from one body of water to another in their pursuit of quality fishing. Most of the states east and south of us have numerous species that WE DON'T WANT IN NORTH DAKOTA! That means we have to be aware of what the dangers are and have to take steps to protect our waters. North Dakota now has rules and regulations to help prevent the spread of ANS with finest and penalties if we do not abide by them.

Lake Region Anglers Assoc. will regularly have articles in our newsletters and on our webpage regarding what **you** can do to help prevent this. LRAA will be regularly policing our outings. We have to watch ourselves, our friends, and fellow anglers and hunters and recreational boaters. To paraphrase, WE HAVE SEEN THE ENEMY AND IT IS WE. Only we can prevent the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species, let us do it.

Enjoy your boating but keep your waters safe and secure. And by the way,

IT IS NOW THE LAW.