



Lake Region Anglers Association

PO Box 456, Devils Lake, ND 58301

• Sportsmanship • Conservation • Youth Activities • Preservation

Reminder: If dues are not current, this is your last newsletter.

June 2008

Lake Region Anglers Association Officers Board of Directors

PresidentClark Williams
 Vice PresidentTom Rost
 Past PresidentBruce Hagan
 SecretaryCathy Nord
 TreasurerBrenda Barstad

Board Members 2007 – 2009

Lynn Schlueter, Al Freidig, Jim Yri,
 Jake Sander, Jim Bearfield

Board Members 2005 – 2007

Clint DeVier, Ralph Gardner,
 Larry Schneider, Tim Reiner

Prez Sez:

I'll keep it short this spring. Lake Region Anglers needs your support, both your membership dues and your active participation. Get the message out about what we do, get your friends to join and come to our outings and meetings. Meet new friends. Share your fishing experiences. If you missed our Year in Review from our March Newsletter check it out on our webpage at ndsportfishingcongress.org. Fishing wouldn't be the same in the Lake Region without the Anglers and we are only as good as the people who support us. Get involved.

Clark Williams

Summer 2008 Calendar

June 7	LRAA East Bay Earlybird - East Bay Ramp:
June 13-15	Spirit Lake Marina Walleye Classic
June 19	F Troop - East Bay
June 21	27th Annual Devils Lake Open - Lakewood Beach
June 28-29	Devils Lake Chamber Walleye Tournament
July 12	Angler Young Angler Tournament
July 14-17	College for Kids
July 18	Flyway Bar - Webster Fish Fry
July 21	North Dakota Telephone Co. Fish Fry
July 24	F Troop - Lakewood
July 26	LRAA Adult/Child Tournament - Grahams Island
August 4-8	Lure'em for Life
August 9-10	Master Walleye Circuit Tournament
August 14	F Troop - Six Mile Bay
August 16	Sportsmen for Youth Expo
August 23	LRAA Walleye Widow Get-Together - Grahams Island

Sportsman of the Year

Lake Region Anglers presented Dick Horner, former Manager at Grahams Island State Park with their Sportsman of the Year award for 2007-2008. Dick served the State of North Dakota for 37 years and the past 19 as the Manager at Grahams Island State Park.



Under Dicks stewardship Grahams Island has become the jewel of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation system. As anyone who has used the Grahams Island knows it is an amazing resource and a major part of the Lake Region fishing system. Dick Horner has not only worked to make the Park the best in the state, he has always been there personally to make the users feel that their needs were of personal and paramount importance whether they were campers, recreational fishermen or tournament fishermen. Dick was always there 24/7.

Dick also has been an integral part of the Lake Region fishing, boating and tourism community. He served on numerous area committees and when necessary cleaned fish, provided transportation and even picked up the trash. Dick Horner, 2008 Lake Region Anglers Sportsman of the Year. Thanks Dick

Devils Lake Angler Young Angler AYA

Angler Young Angler still has openings

Angler Young Angler a regional network of 20 fishing tournaments for kids throughout Canada and the United States has a few openings yet for the event on Devils Lake July 12th. The tournament which is Co-sponsored by LRAA and Walleys Unlimited of Fargo pits 40 teams of 3 including, one adult and 2 children 17 or under against each other. The entry fee is \$150.00 per team. Besides the many prizes offered the winner qualifies for a year ending championship. If you are interested contact Keith at 662-6300 daytime or 662-6003 evening or at fig-kms@stellarnet.com



Johnnie Candle, professional Devils Lake fisherman, presented at the Spring Annual Meeting on the latest techniques for approaching Devils Lake Walleyes.

Aquatic Nuisance Species – Good News

By LR Schlueter, NDGF ANS Coordinator



Devils Lake is a popular place to fish for everyone – locals, people from Bismarck, Fargo, Ellendale, and for nonresidents. We, all anglers, boaters, and hunters, have new regulations to follow this spring. The new Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) regulations are as follows– remove all vegetation from the boat, boat trailer, livewell, etc., and drain the boat's bilge and livewell (unless used to transport gamefish or baitfish), Also, remember don't dump bait. These are the same protection measures which you have been asked to take for the past few years.

These simple precautions are being followed by many, but not all are making the effort to protect our waters. A recent statewide resident angler survey found only 70% of anglers contacted knew about ANS, 45% were taking precautions, and about 53% did not think ANS was a real problem. As regulations, all anglers, hunters, boaters, and commercial operators now have to take precautions. It only takes a few minutes to clean off the vegetation, and drain out the boat. That is what keeps ANS from being spread to other waterbodies. Prevention is cheaper, more effective, and better than trying to deal with problems.

Simply put, ANS is not a problem that will go away. Once they become established in a waterbody, there's no going back. As we move about and, fish new waters, ANS could be hitchhiking a ride with us. North Dakota has few ANS problems at this time - - and we (all of us) need to keep it that way. Prevention is cheaper, easier and much better than fighting a never ending problem. Over the past few years, the prevention theme has been - Clean the aquatic vegetation from the boat and livewell or bait bucket, drain the livewell and bilge, and do not stock or dump bait.

SPRING NORTHERN OUTING SUCCESSFUL IF WINDY

9 teams braved the 30plus winds to fish the 2008 Spring Northern Outing at 6 Mile Bay on May 17th. The winning team of Kraig Gellner and Chad Mittleider of Langdon (see picture) caught a limit of 6 northern pike that weighed 24.95 lbs. The second place team of Ross Sensiba and Gary Remmen of Devils Lake also caught the largest northern of 6.0 lbs.

1st Place	Kraig Gellner and Chad Mittleider	24.95 lbs
2nd Place	Ross Sensiba and Gary Remmen	24.54 lbs
3rd Place	Howard Nelson and Russ Miller	24.07 lbs
4th Place	Brenda Barstad and Justin Barstad	23.88 lbs
5th Place	Cory Anderson and Ken Remmen	23.87 lbs



1st Place Team
Kraig Gellner & Chad Mittleider

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on March 20th at the Eagles. Attendance was low but those who attended had a great time. In addition to normal business, Johnnie Candle gave a great presentation, Dick Horner was presented with the Sportsman of the Year award and everyone got one or more door prizes thanks to Blakes Marine, Gerrells Sporting Goods, Johnnie Candle, Pete's Bait Shop, Home of Economy, Thompson's Glass and Paint, North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Don't forget that the Annual Meeting marks the time to renew your LRAA and NDSFC membership.

Election of Officers

Two new Board Members were elected at the Annual Meeting Travis Clemens and Keith Seidlinger and two Board Members were re-elected, Larry Schneider and Ralph Gardner. Thanks to Clint Devier and Jim Bearfield for their service the past two years. Clint remains heavily involved in many LRAA functions especially Lake Access.

Bruce Hagen has assumed the position of Publicity Coordinator created and ably held previously by Elaine Dosch. Elaine remains very actively involved in LRAA functions also. Be sure Bruce has your address, phone number and especially your email since we often send out announcements and reminders of club functions by email. Bruce can be reached by emailing iraag@gondtc.com.

Membership, Webpage, Email Tree and North Dakota Sportfishing Congress

When you pay your dues you get included in our email tree. Announcements, reminders, updates and requests for feedback are regularly sent out by email. Be sure you let us know your email so we can include you. Rest assured we keep your email address confidential.

Lake Region Anglers Association maintains a webpage on the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress website ndsportfishingcongress.org. All our newsletters, tournament applications and lots of other good stuff can be found there. Be sure to join NDSFC also when you pay your dues for LRAA this year, its only \$5. NDSFC is the fishermans representative to State and Federal Government and works to protect your interests.

F Troop

We had two F Troops this winter. One with Randy Hiltner, fisheries supervisor for the Northeast District including Devils Lake. See the article from Randy in this newsletter. The other F Troop was with Greg Schaffer, master boat mechanic at Dales Motorsports. These informal study groups covered many diverse and interesting topics and if you missed them you missed a bunch. Check our Summer Calendar for F Troops scheduled this summer and their locations.

Chamber Walleye Fishing Tournament

The Devils Lake Area Chamber Fishing Tournament on June 28-29 still has openings. The Tournament has been revamped to provide more interesting second day competition for all teams. Johnnie Candle will MC and I think all competitors will find it a good time. You can get an application at the Chamber website www.devilslakend.com then click on the "Chamber Tournament" on the Calendar of Events.

The Chamber Tournament needs your help as a volunteer to continue to allow it to be the quality event it has been for over 30 years. If you'd like to help call Judy or Sheila at 662-4903.

LRAA 2008 Tournaments:

Spring NorthernSaturday May 17th
East Bay.....Saturday June 7th
Devils Lake Open.....Saturday June 21st
Adult/Child.....Saturday July 26th
Walleye WidowSaturday August 23rd

Web Site:

http://www.ndsportfishingcongress.org/Lake_Region_Anglers.htm

If you haven't been on to our website recently, please take a moment and click on there now. Marie Hoerner with the ND Sportfishing Congress has done an excellent job for us. The best news is that it is free to us. If you have photos that you would like to see on there, please email them to me.

Fisheries Division was Busy on Devils Lake in 2007

By Randy Hiltner
Northeast District Fisheries Supervisor



Spawning/walleye tagging:

Fisheries crews collected 87% of the statewide total of northern pike eggs from Devils Lake/Lake Irvine last April. The pike eggs were then brought to the Garrison Dam and Valley City National Fish Hatcheries for rearing to fingerlings. Walleye spawning operations began at Devils Lake April 25th and continued through May 1st. A total of 137 quarts or 56% of the statewide egg-take were collected at Devils Lake. For the most part, the weather cooperated and the egg collecting went well.

Last spring marked the first year of a three-year walleye tagging project at Devils Lake. Walleye tagging began while we were spawning northern pike in Six-Mile Bay and continued after the walleye spawn was over. We tagged 500 female and 500 male walleye. The majority were tagged in Six-Mile Bay but some were also tagged at various bays around the lake. To date, anglers have reported catching about 20% of the total number tagged, which is about what I expected. Future tagging efforts will provide more information on angling mortality. The tagging study also has helped shed some light on walleye movements. Tag returns literally came in from all corners of the lake as fish dispersed widely, showing no real pattern. For example, some fish tagged in Six-Mile Bay were caught by anglers in East Devils Lake.

Freshwater Shrimp (Scuds) Trapping Survey:

In mid-winter, the fisheries crew takes a break from capturing fish and instead traps scuds. Anglers theorize that if the scud numbers are down, perch fishing will get easier. According to this winter's survey, the overall lake-wide catch of scuds was similar to last winter. When trapping scuds, it appears common that at a certain bay you may find high scud numbers one year and low numbers the next. We have found that there is a lot of variability in the trap catch among sites and years.

Creel Survey:

Creel surveys are scheduled every three years at Devils Lake. These surveys provide a lot of valuable information such as, estimates of fish catch and harvest, angling effort, angler demographics, etc. The current survey began May 1st and will continue through April. Some highlights of the survey: the amount of fishing pressure (effort) for the May-October period was the highest on record at Devils Lake, almost 800,000 angler/hours; June was the busiest month during this time frame with about 340,000 hours of effort; and the May-July walleye harvest was estimated at 157,000 fish. Walleye fishing during the open-water season could be considered good by most standards as the harvest rate on average was above one-quarter fish/hour. Walleye fishing in 2007 was slower than in 2006, which was an excellent fishing season. Pike and white bass fishing was also very good. Nonresident anglers have definitely "discovered" Devils Lake as they comprised 62% of the anglers interviewed by the creel clerk in June.

Fish Stocking:

Devils Lake was stocked with walleye and perch fingerlings in 2007. This was the second year of a three-year perch stocking effort of about one million fingerlings/year. All of the stocked fish were marked so one can determine how much the stocked fish actually contributed to the fall net catch. A total of 1.7 million walleye were stocked last summer. This was actually more than the Devils Lake stocking request called for, however the hatchery production was very high so additional fingerlings were available.

Standard Netting Survey Results:

Each July we conduct an adult population netting survey across Devils Lake. This survey provides lots of information on the fish populations and how things change from year to year. The netting survey in 2007 produced the highest catch rate of walleye in the past sixteen years. Many of which were smaller fish, less than sixteen inches. However, the catch rate for fifteen-twenty inch walleye was still above the five-year average. The pike net catch rate was similar to recent years, they are still abundant. White bass numbers were up considerably this year. White bass densities are increasing as a result of a couple of recent good hatches. The yellow perch catch rate was up slightly from the last two years but is still below the management plan objective level.

In the fall, we set small mesh gill nets to catch young-of-the-year (yoy) game fish that were either hatched naturally or stocked as fingerlings during the summer. Last fall's netting survey results are very encouraging. We had the highest catch rate of young game fish since the survey began in 1992. Perch, walleye and white bass yoy were all abundant. The vast majority of the perch and walleye were from natural reproduction, even though high numbers of fingerlings for both species were stocked. Many of these small fish will wind up in a bigger fish's stomach, but usually when you start with this many, some will reach adulthood and provide fishing opportunities.

Lake Access Update

Parks and Recreation is planning to widen the existing ramp at Grahams Island and are looking to build new fish cleaning station this fall. They also will be refurbishing the docks.

At Black Tiger Bay they will be resloping and leveling the west boat ramp, install a light pole and Game and Fish will be moving a courtesy docks from Henegar Landing there.

The 6 Mile Bay Fish Cleaning station is well on its way. Plans are to complete construction by the first of June. For those who use the 6 mile bay ramp and parking bear with us and respect others who use that facility.

Game and Fish will be replacing the temporary ramps at East Bay and at Minnewaukan with poured concrete and a courtesy dock will be placed at East Bay. These improvements should be completed by mid summer.

Henegar Landing has a major face lift in the works. The central roller dock will be replaced with a skid dock which should be in place by June 1. Vault toilets and steps will be installed and by the end of the summer a fish cleaning station is planned..

Serious work is going on behind the scenes to hopefully result in an access point on Pelican Lake. Keep your fingers crossed. Updates to follow as they develop.

LURE 'EM FOR LIFE

Sponsored scholarships

Lure 'em for Life is a state-wide non-profit organization of North Dakota Game and Fish volunteers for the purpose of fishing and aquatic education. Each year, members and volunteers sponsor, manage and fund camps and event in partnership with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Included in their sponsored activities are week long Fish Camps for children ages 8-14 including one at Devils Lake August 4-8, Day camps, and Education Classes both for adults and children. LRAA sponsors 4 scholarships for the week long Camp in August for member children. Applications for the camp can be obtained by calling the Devils Lake Park Board, 662-8243.

Fish Camp needs volunteers with boats to take kids fishing August 4-8

The Lure 'em for Life Fish Camp needs boats with volunteer operators to take kids fishing all five days the week of August 4-8. Kids are 8-14 years of age. There are two sessions each day 8-11:15 and 1-4:15., generally 2 kids per boat. LEFL pays for bait and some tackle is available from Game and Fish. All volunteers are required to be LEFL members (\$10.00 individual, \$15.00 family) and Game and Fish Volunteers (no fee). If you can help please contact Rhonda Ferguson at rfergie@daktel.com or 701-952-1180.

Protect Our Fishing Resource

A lot of discussion has gone on this winter and spring about protecting our outdoor resources. Concern about people double dipping, snagging spawning female walleyes, poaching, and other illegal activities. It was suggested that we close off certain areas to fishing, close the season again during spawn as it used to be, increase the number of wardens, etc. Probably none of these things are going to happen in the foreseeable future.

We have a large state and one the smallest staff of wardens in the country. They do a good job but have a lot of area to cover and many responsibilities. As concerned sportsmen we can help. The Game and Fish Department has set up a program to encourage attentive sportsmen report suspected violators and even get rewarded for their efforts. Lake Region Anglers supports getting involved.

RAP(Report All Poachers) works. Game and Fish doesn't actively publicize their effective efforts but take my word for it, many of the wardens most successful busts start with a RAP report. The penalties are severe also. We will have more information on the number of citations and the penalties imposed in the future since we feel that successful deterrence through public information is as important at apprehension. If we can prevent people from raping the resource in the first place its even more effective that catching them after they violated the law. You can get more information on the RAP program by going to the North Dakota Game and Fish website www.gf.nd.gov on the home page click on "report a violation" on the right side.

The RAP contact number 1-800-472-2121 is on your North Dakota fishing license. Use it, protect your fishing and hunting resource. In the Lake Region you can also call the Law Enforcement Center 662-472-2121.

Law Enforcement will need: Nature of violation; Location(GPS coordinate will help); Violators name and address if known; description of violators (age, build, clothing, other features); Vehicle or boat description (license number, etc.); date and time of offense; your name and address and phone number; names and address or other witnesses