



April 2012

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## Time to Renew Your SDWU Membership!!

March 31 is the end of the SDWU membership year. If you have not renewed please use the enclosed envelope to send in the \$25 membership for 2012.

Your membership is important.

- Your membership is your voice on issues important to our sport.
- SDWU is the largest organized fishing group in the state of South Dakota
- All monies raised stay's within our borders
- Actively involved with State and Local GF&P's
- Provide and improve public access
- Lakes and River projects
- Scholarships to Fisheries and Wildlife Science at SDSU

- Sponsor youth to Bob Marshall Camp
- Kids Fishing day's
- Miracle Kid's Network
- Your opportunity to have strength in numbers
- Accomplish common interest goals and objectives that are important to the State of South Dakota

Your membership does make a difference!

If you have already renewed please hand the envelope to a fishing buddy and ask them to join.

Thanks for your support!!!

Lee Jensen  
Membership Coordinator

## Rapid City Area Chapter President's News

### Michael Johnson, President

By the time you get your newsletter the Annual Fundraising Banquet will be over, and as I compose this address for the April newsletter I can only hope that it will be as successful as previous years. Once again we have had the support of local business people and corporate sponsors to give us a great variety of prizes and items for the auction. My job this year has forced me to delegate a lot of responsibilities in the club, and I want to thank everyone that helped get things done this year. All the members that solicited or donated prizes, Larry Smith for his organizational wizardry as Banquet Chairman, Loren Kasuske for taking on the Vice Presidency, Lee Jensen for all he does above and beyond the duties of Secretary/Treasurer, Denny Bohls, Delbert Stover and Denny Dunlap for their continued role in the success of the club, and everyone that consistently give their time and talents at our events. Most of all I have to thank my wife, Brenda, for all she does behind the scenes (without her, I'd be a mess). I know I say this every year, but none of the great things that we do as a group would happen if you didn't get involved and want to make a difference. Thanks.

I have to share with you something that happened to me the other day. Loren and I were shopping for last minute prizes for the banquet, and I overheard a conversation between father and son about tackle boxes.

They were debating the pros and cons of large vs. small, storage, weight, and price, and trying to decide which one would work best for the young angler. I'd guess his age at 10 years old, give or take a year. I asked if they would mind if I made a suggestion, and shared a couple things I've learned over the years. I pointed out the cost savings and versatility of trays and soft-sided tackle bags, and that he would be able to organize each tray for what he was fishing for. That way he didn't have to take everything he owned everywhere he went, and he could add trays as he needed. It would keep the initial cost down for Dad, and give the boy what he needed without having a tackle box that was bigger than he was. Both of them were very impressed with the logic, and thanked me for the information. Now I don't claim for a minute to know all there is to know about fishing, and everyone has their own opinion on what works for them. The point of the story is how much the kid appreciated someone taking the time to share with him his new found interest in fishing. It was very rewarding to me to see the gratitude in their eyes, and was yet another reminder to me why I belong to SDWU. I'm sure each of you has had a similar experience, and I hope you don't forget how much it means to the other guy out there when you give away one of your nuggets of knowledge.

Ice is out, go fishing and be safe.

## Central SD Chapter President's News

### Bret Afdahl, President

What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time we had snow everywhere and there was worry about having too much water. Well, you know how that story ended. Today is a different story; it is a balmy 83 as I write this on March 17 after spending the morning on the water. I had a decent day but others have had much better. So far a coworker has sent me a picture of a 9+ pound walleye and a 15+ pound northern. Additional texts indicate that they also boated a 10+ pound walleye and a 20+ pound northern. I obviously didn't go fishing in the right area, but that is nothing new.

The Central State Chapter is back to holding regular meetings after a rather disorganized 2011. GF&P Commissioner John Cooper visited with our group for two hours last

week on a wide range of topics, including: the future of Lakes Oahe and Sharpe; Mountain Lions in the Black Hills; the accelerating rate of wetlands drainage that is occurring in the Dakotas; and an update on the Tony Dean Foundation.

John was instrumental, along with one of our members, Paul Lepisto, in spearheading the effort to raise money to establish a memorial foundation to create a lasting legacy for Tony Dean. The path has been winding but what will take place this year is very exciting. The foundation is ready to start making land acquisitions to provide additional acres of land for public hunting and access. Instead of purchasing one large tract as originally planned, several small parcels will be purchased to round out nearby Waterfowl Production Areas and Game Production

Areas. All such land will be signed to identify that it is part of the Tony Dean Foundation and the efforts to maintain this land will be coordinated with state and federal agencies. I will pass along additional information as it become available.

Very soon we will begin making plans for our annual river cleanup. This year might be a dry land "river" cleanup depending on the needs of our community. We will be keeping our eyes and ears open for possible cleanup sites and unfortunately, we will likely not have to look or travel far to find more stuff than we can cleanup in one evening. More details will follow and we will ask for your help as you are able.

Thanks and good luck fishing this summer. All indications are that it is going to be a great one!

## Slipbobber Rod, Reel, and Line Setup

### Doc Sampson

If you aren't using slip bobbers you are missing a great opportunity. I receive many questions about my setup and now you have the answers on one page.

I use 7-8 1/2 foot rods so I can fish a long ways from the boat and still get a good hook set. I love fighting fish with long rods but it is too tiring to hold an 8 1/2 foot rod all day. One advantage with slip bobbers is you can lay the rod down with the bail open! I prefer reels with large spools so that I have enough line to fish a long ways from the boat and large spools help prevent line twist.

Trilene XT was my favorite line for years because it is light, strong and abrasion resistant. My new favorite after extensive testing is Northland Bionic Bass line 6 lb. I purposely did not spool any new line to see

if the line weakened with exposure to heat and sunlight. I also did not retie my jigs to see if the knots would hold up to abuse. This line is thin, tough, doesn't deteriorate with time and has less memory on the reel than the XT. You want a thin line for casting that doesn't break easily when you get eh fish of lifetime on!

I usually have a 1/16 or 1/32 Northland Gumball jig tied on because they can be an attractor and the leech will not ball up on a jig like it does on a plain hook. I will use a # 6 hook at times if they are biting light.

If you fish trees you must use heavier line to keep the fish from getting tangled in the trees. Braided works great if the fish are not line shy. Braided line has no stretch so you can get the fish out of the brush faster than mono.

I prefer large bobbers and use splitshot to keep them neutral weighted so the fish don't have as much resistant pulling the bobber down and this allows for longer casts.

My preferred bait for slip bobbers is a leech since the bobber doesn't move much which allows the leech to swim and I think this is the reason leech's work the best. Walleyes, panfish, bass and rock bass love leeches.

Other bait choices depending on the fish species you are pursuing are worms, pieces of leeches or worms, maggots and wax worms.

If you want to learn more I just released a slipbobber kit which includes the terminal tackle I use and a DVD on how to catch fish with slipbobbers. [www.hightechfishing.com/store/dvd\\_bobberkit.html](http://www.hightechfishing.com/store/dvd_bobberkit.html)

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# Sioux Empire Chapter President's News

**Jeff Decker, President**

SPRING!!!!!!!!!! The rite of passage that we have all earned to hit the open water in pursuit of our passion.

SDWU state meeting was held in January at Cedar Shores in Oacoma. The event was hosted by the Sioux Empire Chapter and organizer LeRoy Huntimer. Nice Job LeRoy!

The speakers covered a range of topics from flood impact on our waters and the fish that inhabit them by Fisheries Biologist Jason Sorenson, Fisheries and Wildlife Scholarships by Dr. David Willis and their importance to the not so distant future of our outdoor environment and electronics presented by Doug Haas and Steve.

Entertainment was provided by the "Red Solo Cup" himself, Mr. Mike Johnson. This alone was worth the price admission.

For those in attendance this is truly educational and opportunity for renewed and new friendships. For those that were not there, perhaps we will see you next year. Please offer

your comments on what you would like to see at these meetings so that perhaps we can all learn from your knowledge.

Congratulations to Woody Tiggelaar on being selected as the 2011 Dakota's Chapter of American Fisheries Society as the Aquatic Resource Conservationist of the Year. This is a great tribute to Woody for his dedication and commitment to SDWU and the state of South Dakota. Past winners have been John Cooper and Jeremy Roe.

There are many events in the coming months that bring great benefit to the members of SDWU. Take advantage of these opportunities and at the same time support those sponsors that support SDWU.

Chris Hesla of the SD Wildlife Federation who lobbies on behalf of SDWU and other outdoor organizations in South Dakota had a busy legislative session. 38 different Bills and Resolutions were introduced in this year's Legislature. Chris states that, "Some of the Bills were ok, but most of them we

killed." Thank you Chris.

As we look to what maybe some of the best fishing in years (yes even better than 2011) as we learned recently from the Biologist of the SD GF&P that the adult Rainbow smelt (RBS) population has remained stable even with the past year flooding. The zero to 1 year RBS took a big hit with up to 88% loss in the Oahe Reservoir. The plan is to augment that loss with a stocking of gizzard shad allowing for the adult RBS to spawn and regenerate the loss of the young smelt. With a lesser forge base but yet sustainable and rebuilding the Walleye bite should be very aggressive.

Jon Smith continues to line up great guest speakers for our monthly meetings that offer insight into improved fishing techniques, education of the environment in which we fish, and to improve our chances of a successful outing (catching).

See you at Kids Day!  
I wish you all a Great SPRING!!!



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## Happenings at Outdoor Campus West

### Michael Johnson, President

The Outdoor Campus West hosted an open house February 28th to discuss West River Fisheries with interested anglers. Attendance was good despite a small snowstorm that hit the area the day of the event. Four different stations were set up to discuss lakes and dams on the prairie, the Black Hills lakes and streams, and Shadehill Reservoir in Northwestern SD. Anglers reviewed issues with GF&P representatives at the event. They were also invited to write down concerns and questions so GF&P Officials can ascertain what the users concerns are, and identify critical areas. Information obtained that evening will be addressed at follow up meetings designed to concentrate on each area individually.

A follow-up meeting is already scheduled for April 5th to discuss Black Hills area lakes. The illegal introduction of Northern Pike in Pactola and the effect it is having on the Lake Trout population is of particular concern to area fisherman and GF&P Biologists. Angler Surveys from 2011 indicate catch rates are down for most

people at the popular lake. Some individuals are extremely pleased with the opportunity to catch very large Northern Pike, but the long term effect on the fishery and the overall management plan are cause for alarm to others and to the GF&P.

Belle Fourche Reservoir (Orman Dam) will be discussed later this year following an Angler Use Survey planned for this summer. The controversial "Slot Limit" is the hot topic for this fishery, along with forage base for the increased number of larger, protected, fish in the reservoir.

Other information shared that evening included gill net surveys, stocking summaries, and the ongoing effort to re-establish populations in areas decimated by the drought between 2000 and 2010.

The Outdoor Campus West opened in 2011 and provides the perfect venue for this type of event. Prior to this facility's construction, the GF&P did not have a place of their own to host meetings like this. The meeting was organized by Gene Galinat, head of West River Fisheries Biologists.

## GFP Finalizes Public Water Markings, Zones and Motorboat Rules

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission has ordered no-wake zones on several bodies of water in the state.

The Commission created no-wake zones on:

- Richmond Lake (Brown County) during periods of high water
- Mina Lake (Edmunds County) during periods of high water
- Lake Mitchell (Davison County) during periods of high water; the Commission also amended boundaries of the existing no-wake zone on the lake's west end

- Amended existing zoning on Lewis and Clark Lake (Yankton County), adjacent to Canary Beach, from a public swimming zone to a no-wake zone.

The Commission approved an "electric-motors-only" zone on waters of the Rollins Game Production Area (Lincoln County).

But the Commission rejected a proposal that would have created an "electric-motors-only" zone for Family Park in Minnehaha County. A "no-motors" zone will remain in place for Family Park.

## Upcoming Events

### Sioux Empire Kids Fishing Day

**Date TBA**

Again this year Nicole & Jason Junke will be coordinating this outdoor fun event. Check our website for the location and date to be announced.

### Cabela's Days, April 14 & 15, 2012

As a member of SDWU, you are invited to Cabela's Days at the Mitchell store. You will receive 5%-25% off, depending on the item and whether or not the item has already been discounted. You must show your current membership card at the checkout to receive the discount.

### Scheels Walleye University, April 21, 2012

Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel, Amphitheatre #1  
Cost \$50.00  
Class held from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Register at Scheels Customer Service in Sioux Falls, call 605-334-7747 or visit [scheels.com/events](http://scheels.com/events).

### SDWU Members Fishing Tournament, July 14, 2012

The tournament will be held at Platte Creek. Look for mailings and an announcement on the website. The tournament is limited to 50 teams.

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## Revised Sioux Empire Walleyes Unlimited Meeting Schedule

April 18 (Wednesday)

May 15

June 19

July 18 (Wednesday)

August 22 (Wednesday)

September 19 (Wednesday)

October 16

November 20

December 18

in the theater from 7-9 PM

**Do you have an upcoming meeting or special event? Let us know about it! We will add it to this section!**

## Platte Creek Development Update

### Mark Mattison

On a cold January evening of 2012 approximately 30 members of SDWU and area campers met with members of GFP from Pierre and Dave Enke District Park Manager. With the generosity of Denny & Elsie Juhnke a meeting at the Platte Creek Store was held. The main topic of the event was to discuss the need for improvements, the possible expansion of the GFP boat ramp and the facilities at the present launching site. As the evening went forward the subject centered around maintaining and improving the facility that exists. I am pleased to say it was a very calm and productive meeting.

The first week of February I received a call from Dave Enke stating that a meeting would be conducted in Platte at the area bank. The meeting was held on February 7th as a follow-up from our original meeting at Platte Creek Store, to say nothing but thanks to all because with the folks that attended and good level discussion there is power in numbers. Dave stated he would like to have a member of SDWU and the input they had in regard to such improvements, the list of attendees are listed at the end of this article. Discussions were quite in depth of the planned improvements at the Platte Creek GFP facility.

First of all, we should see the construction of a new comfort/shower station for the GFP camp ground. A drop off dock will be installed east of the existing docks in hope of taking pressure off the loading dock area. It's for dropping off a boat passenger, they then can get there trailer in line to load. Due to the excess flooding underground electrical

infrastructure was damaged. This has to be repaired as camping spots, fish station and all electrically serviced areas are affected. Parking lot, road repair, the possibility of relocating the fish cleaning station and dump station were also discussed. The existing parking lot was originally designed for a 20 year use plan. The parking lot now is in its 27th year. It was brought to our attention that the engineers are looking at another long term repair. Undercutting the base, a new chip seal coat along with the road repair in the area along with a possibility of a complete new relocation of fish cleaning and dump area. At the time of this printing Dave Enke and Paul Beckwith are researching possibilities of the fish/dump station. Please be patient as these things will take time but they are going to happen.

We also discussed the future improvements that are being looked at. First of all, thanks to Bill and Kathy Brueggeman and all that circulated and signed the swimming beach petition. We had a long discussion as to safety of swimmers, high speed boat traffic, location and parking area. The petitions carried some weight in Pierre as the statement was made as to the great interest in the area. Added boat ramp parking was also discussed and a plot map was on site as a possibility to future parking. As the summer goes on I will stay in contact with Dave, the planning department and the engineering department of GFP. In closing I would like to wish all campers, fisherman and recreational to have a safe and fun summer.

Hope to see you all in the area!

Thanks again!



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## Woody Tiggelaar, Aquatic Resource Conservationist of the Year

### Jeff Decker

The Dakota Chapter is a subunit of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Founded in 1870 as the American Fish Culturists Association, AFS is an international society with over 8,500 members in 75 countries. Members are typically fishery and aquatic biologists, managers, fish culturists, researchers, administrators, educators, students, and other fisheries and aquatic resource professionals. AFS promotes the scientific management of aquatic resources for the optimum use and enjoyment by the people on the North American continent. The Dakota Chapter (name change in 1987) was originally organized as the Upper Missouri River Chapter in 1963 to look at the changes that were happening on the Missouri River (5 major dams were causing). Today the chapter members from North and South Dakota provide several annual awards to professionals, conservation groups and students and scholarship opportunities to students.

Woody was chosen by the Dakota Chapter American Fisheries Society Aquatic Conservationist of the Year for 2011. Woody was chosen for this recognition for his years of dedicated work and organization to improve the fisheries within the state of South Dakota. Woody has been a member of South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited (SDWU) since its inception in 2000. In keeping with the mission statement of SDWU Woody has stayed the course in helping SDWU achieve its status as the largest organized fishing group in the State and recognized throughout the Midwest. Some of the more recent projects that Woody has demonstrated leadership and



Pictured left to right, Ruth Tiggelaar, Woody Tiggelaar and Rollin Tiggelaar.

taken a very visible active part of are: South Dakota State University Fisheries/Biologist scholarship programs, American Creek Fishing Pier in Chamberlain, Diamond Lake Habitat Project, Diamond Lake Dock Project, Defeating House Bills in Pierre that would have been detrimental to our fishing access, Platte Creek access Improvement, Fishing for Paralyzed Veterans Association, Kids Day fishing coordinator giving over 1,000 kids the opportunity to experience their first catch. Woody has also served as Past State President, Chapter President, Vice President and currently is Special Projects coordinator, State Board of Directors and working as SDWU liaison with the State GF&P.

This is not the first such award presented to SDWU by the American

Fisheries. The Rapid City Area Chapter of SDWU was selected in 2009 for their work in Western South Dakota for restoring Public Access to several lakes, participation in kid activities, Bob Marshall Wilderness Camp, Annual Rapid Creek cleanup project(s).

Congratulations to Woody on being selected as the 2011 Aquatic Resource Conservationist and to the Rapid City Area Chapter for their 2009 Selection.

This bears mentioning that Woody has a great supporter in Ruth. Although not always visible Ruth continually supports Woody in all his efforts.

Together this is a powerful statement as to the importance and recognition that South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited has on the way that as a group, the impact that we have is tremendous and very positive.

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# Trout To Be Stocked Below Fort Randall Dam

**GFP**  
 PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department will stock approximately 15,000 trout below Fort Randall Dam this month.

The first stocking of about 7,500 trout in the boat basin below the dam is scheduled for Friday, March 16, according to Jason Sorensen, GFP fisheries biologist. The remaining trout will be stocked on March 23.

Trout are stocked annually below Fort Randall Dam to provide a unique fishing opportunity, in addition to other fishing opportunities in the area.

Crews from McNenny State Fish

Hatchery in Spearfish will stock brown trout and two strains of rainbow trout below the dam near Pickstown.

"There are 5,000 each of brown trout, Shasta strain rainbow trout and McConaughy strain rainbow trout scheduled to be stocked," Sorensen said.

"The trout range between 9 and 12 inches in length and bite readily, providing excellent angling opportunities for kids of all ages, as well as adults," he said. "Excellent shoreline access and boat launching facilities provide angling opportunities for both boat and shore anglers."

One strain of rainbow trout has been

marked with a fin clip to aid in differentiating them for an ongoing research project that hopes to help maximize stocking efficiency, Sorensen said.

"We will again be evaluating the return of these different species/strains to the angler creel to provide insight into which species should be stocked in future years to give us our biggest return for each sportsman dollar invested," he said.

Monitoring is done over the course of several years to account for the effects of variables such as weather and post-stocking survival. A main objective of the stocking is to return trout to the angler creel.

# South Dakota GFP Offers Apple App for Hunters and Anglers

The South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks has just released a smart-phone application that will make life easier for hunters and anglers.

The GFP application, or app, is a free download at the App Store for users of the Apple iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. It allows sportsmen to purchase and apply for licenses via their phones, provides GPS-enabled maps of public hunting areas and fishing access, and provides access to the current South Dakota Fishing and Hunting Handbooks.

The iPhone app, which joins a similar GFP app for Android phones, also has links to the GFP website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

"Technological tools like these apps allow South Dakota hunters and anglers to have a lot of useful information at their fingertips," said GFP Secretary Jeff Vonk. "Three years ago, we decided we wanted

to be at the forefront of this technology, and I am proud to say we are one of the first states to provide these tools to sportsmen and women."

The new apps also have room to grow.

"We have plans to add some fun, educational aspects to the app, and it also will offer different links during different times of the year," said app creator Chris Marsh, GFP geographic information system specialist. "Currently, users can access the mountain lion hunting season totals, but as soon as snow geese show up in the state, they'll be able to follow that migration as well."

"The recent development of these mobile apps represent a significant efficiency improvement in state government operations," said Dom Bianco, commissioner of the state Bureau of Information and Telecommunications. "Game, Fish and Parks continues to be a leader in supporting Gov. Dugaard's e-

Government initiative. We applaud GFP's efforts to increasingly shift government services online and in a mobile-friendly format by creating tools that its customers can access away from home and in the field."

South Dakota sportsmen have responded well to the new mobile tools, Vonk added.

"We have more than 8,000 people using our GPS downloadable maps. In three months, more than 6,000 people have downloaded our Android app, and over 50,000 people have viewed our waterfowl migration/hunting opportunity maps," Vonk said. "I believe that makes for more informed and more active hunters, and that is our ultimate goal."

For more information on the apps and other GFP social media tools, visit: <http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/social-media.aspx>

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# South Dakota State University Updates

## Dave Willis, Department Head, Natural Resource Management, SDSU

Good day to our friends with South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited! I'd like to do two things in this newsletter article. First of all, let me provide an update on the recent and substantial changes at SDSU. Second, I will overview our scholarship program and the importance of SDWU to those funds.

The budget cuts over the past 3 years were substantial at SDSU, and by far the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences in which we are housed was most affected. I am not trying to complain here; this is history and we are moving forward. However, those cuts substantially affected how the College is organized. We moved toward larger departments so that administration would receive measurable cuts, just as did the faculty and staff. As a result, the former Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences is now housed within a larger Department of Natural Resource Management (NRM). I was able to stay on board as the Head for the combined Department. The new Department was also formed to encourage collaborative work among our various natural resource disciplines, and we are already seeing activities along those lines.

The new NRM Department combined Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences faculty members (10) with the Ecology and Environmental Science faculty members (5), the Range Science faculty members (4 faculty and one extension field specialist), and one faculty member from Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks. We continue to house our South Dakota Cooperative

Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (3 faculty members), which is absolutely essential to the quality of our program. Those three Unit faculty members are U.S. Geological Survey employees who teach one graduate course per year, and mentor numerous graduate students in our program. They really fill in expertise within the Department, and our only cost is to provide offices and labs for them. Finally, we continue to provide office space for two South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) personnel: the Brookings County conservation officer and the state waterfowl biologist. Our working relationship with SDGFP has always been very good, which is quite important to us. Housing these two individuals simply increases the day-to-day interactions between SDGFP and SDSU.

At the undergraduate level, we will maintain a B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, a B.S. in Ecology and Environmental Science, and a B.S. in Range Science. All three of those degrees are considered "applied" degrees, and there is a market for students in all of those majors. We also will now house the Minor in Botany, which is very important to us. Students, especially those interested in wildlife ecology and management, need to know plants and plant ecology. Thus, we were quite pleased when the botany faculty members (n=2) were housed in our new, combined department when the Ecology/Environmental Science faculty joined us. We currently have 342 students in the Wildlife and Fisheries degree program, 55 in Ecology/Environmental Science, and 25 in Range Science.

Our graduate program will primarily

involve M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs in both Biological Sciences and in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. However, we can use other degree programs, as needed. As of today, we have 69 graduate students. They break out as follows: 40 in M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, 13 in Ph.D. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, 11 in M.S. Biological Sciences, 3 in M.S. Animal Science, and 1 in Ph.D. Biological Sciences.

Now let's turn to the scholarship program. Along with the cuts over the past several years have come increased rates for student tuition and fees. Thus, scholarship programs are more important now than ever before. I don't yet have numbers for the entire NRM program. Our last scholarship banquet was in October 2011, and involved only the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences students. For academic year 2011-2012, those students received a total of \$59,600 in total scholarships. That included \$28,650 from University and College sources, and \$30,950 from our Department. So, the \$2,500 in scholarships from SDWU provided 4.2% of the total scholarship amount for our students, and an amazing 8.1% of our Department scholarships. Isn't that impressive? We are very, very appreciative of your assistance! In 2012, we will move to an April scholarship banquet and we will include a few scholarships for the Ecology/Environmental Science and Range Science students in our new mix of funding opportunities. The SDWU scholarships will continue to be used for students majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences.

Again, thanks so much for your support! We'll do our best to stay well-connected with Walleyes Unlimited.

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# North Point Campground, Facilities To Reopen This Summer Following Flood

## GFP

PICKSTOWN, S.D. – State Park officials say last year's Missouri River flood in South Dakota will have little impact on campers to North Point Recreation Area near Pickstown this summer.

"North Point was lucky in that it escaped some of the major damage we saw upstream," said State Parks and Recreation Director Doug Hofer. "While the park staff will continue to work on repair projects throughout the summer, campsites and major facilities should be back on line in time for summer recreation."

Hofer expects all North Point campsites and comfort stations to be operational for the first official weekend of the summer camping season, referred to as Open House Weekend, May 18-20.

However, campers should keep in mind that full recovery will take quite a while, he

said. While North Point Recreation Area and most of its facilities will be open this spring, some facilities will not be in the same condition as they were before the flood. Visitors will see the effects in eroded shorelines, patchy grass, damaged trails, and fewer trees.

"Total restoration from the flood will continue at North Point throughout the year," said Hofer. "We appreciate visitors' understanding as we work to make things right again. We're hopeful and confident we can meet our goals to get the park in good condition for the summer."

Throughout the summer, park visitors will have use of the sanitary dump station, fish cleaning station, swim beach change house, day use area, boat ramps, and playground. New electrical pedestals will also be in place, and grass is expected to begin growing this spring.

The park lost several trees to the flooding, and picnic shelter No. 1 will not be available for use at all this summer. Visitors are also advised that the Spillway Lakeside Use Area below Fort Randall Dam sustained shoreline erosion and damage to roads that are scheduled for repairs by midsummer.

Hofer released the timeline now for park repairs because reservations open soon for the popular North Point campground. Reservations can be made 90 days before arrival, with reservations opening for Open House Weekend on Feb. 18. Memorial Day weekend reservations open Feb. 25 for a Friday, May 25, arrival.

Sites and facilities will continually be evaluated and opened as soon as conditions allow, Hofer said. He encourages park users to check the park's webpage and sign up for email news releases at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov) to stay current on the latest information.

## GFP Commission Proposes Changes

## GFP

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has proposed two rule changes involving equipment used on boats.

One measure would mandate that fire extinguishers required on boats be in working order. A current rule requires U.S. Coast Guard-approved fire extinguishers on boats. Class A and Class 1 motorboats

must carry at least one fire extinguisher of B-I type or larger; Class 2 motorboats at least two B-I type or larger; and Class 3 boats at least one B-II type and one B-I type, or three B-I type.

However, the existing rule does not stipulate that those fire extinguishers be maintained in working order. Fire extinguishers that are not serviceable or those that have been discharged are a

safety risk to boaters.

The second GFP commission proposal would allow emergency rescue and law enforcement boats to use red emergency lights or a combination of red-and-blue emergency lights, as well as the blue emergency lights currently allowed.

Additional information is available online at <http://www.gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/default.aspx>

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# GFP Commission Proposes Changes in Public Water Zoning

**GFP**

PIERRE, S.D. – The Game, Fish and Parks Commission has proposed changes to existing boating restrictions on several bodies of water in South Dakota. The changes were requested by GFP staff and local officials to help address problems that may arise in times of high water. Proposed changes would:

- Create “no-wake zones” on Richmond Lake in Brown County and Mina Lake in Edmunds County. They would be in effect any time the water level reaches 18-inches or more over the level of the top of the spillway, providing a more efficient response to requests during high water events.
- Create a “no-wake zone” on Lake Mitchell in Davison County any time the water level of the lake reaches the

height of 12 inches or more over the top of the spillway. The protective zone would be rescinded when the lake level drops to a level of 6 inches over the top of the spillway. It also is proposed that the “no-wake zone” on the west end of Lake Mitchell be reduced. The proposed zoning would extend from the lake point located in the southwest quarter of Section 32 (T103N-R60W) and extending across the lake to a point on the shoreline 100 feet north of the entrance to the man-made channel connecting Lake Mitchell to Firesteel Creek.

- Create an “electric-motor zone” on the waters of Rollings Game Production Area in Lincoln County, where several small ponds have been connected by man-made channels to form one body of water that is about 7.5 acres. The

proposal is intended to maintain a quiet and peaceful atmosphere for anglers, other users and residents in the area.

- Amend existing zoning on waters of Family Park in Minnehaha County from a “no-motor zone” to an “electric-motor zone” to allow additional use of the area by small watercraft that use electric trolling motors.
- Convert the “public swimming zone” adjacent to Canary Beach at Lewis and Clark Recreation Area in Yankton County to a “no-wake zone”. The change would better match the demands of park users in an area where the interest in swimming has declined and demand for boating activity has increased.

Additional information is available online at <http://www.gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/default.aspx>

## Cabela's / SDWU Discount Days

To the Members of SD Walleyes Unlimited;

We would like to welcome you into our store the weekend of April 14th & 15th, 2012. During these two days you will be eligible to receive our employee discount on any item throughout the store. The discount will vary between 5-25% depending on the item and whether or not the item has already been discounted.

All you will need to do is show our customer service team your membership card and they will be happy to apply the discount to your purchase.

If you have any questions between now and then please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## Paddlefish Snagging Extended to Lake Francis Case

### GFP

PIERRE, S.D. - Applications are now available from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks for a paddlefish snagging season that will take place on Lake Francis Case from May 1 through May 31, 2012.

There are 350 tags available for the resident-only season. Tags will be issued by lottery drawing, with a first application deadline of Feb. 17. In addition, the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux tribes will each issue 25 paddlefish snagging tags to tribal members for those season dates.

Annual paddlefish stocking efforts initiated in the early 1990s have resulted in good numbers of paddlefish in Lake Francis Case. Jason Sorensen, a GFP fisheries biologist in Chamberlain, said one of the original goals of the stocking program was

to develop a paddlefish sport fishery.

"Due to the success of our stockings over the years, we can be confident that conservative harvest from this paddlefish stock will not have profound negative implications on the population of these unusual fish," Sorensen said.

The season will be open reservoir-wide on Lake Francis Case, and anglers also may snag paddlefish in the White River, from the mouth upstream to the Highway 47 bridge, he said.

"Since this is a new season on Lake Francis Case, we cannot be sure where anglers will concentrate their efforts, but we feel most activity will take place in the tailwaters below Big Bend Dam and near the White River confluence," Sorensen said.

Anglers will not be allowed to snag paddlefish from immediately below the Big

Bend Dam powerhouse to the downstream chain link fence (about two-tenths of a mile). Snagging hours will be 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. CST daily.

The season offers a unique opportunity for anglers to pursue paddlefish along a stretch of the Missouri River that hasn't been fished for paddlefish in over 30 years," Sorensen said.

Biologists will collect information from anglers and harvested paddlefish during the season to aid in managing the new fishery.

Paper applications for the paddlefish drawing are available at license retail agents, GFP offices or by printing them from the GFP website. Additionally, anglers can apply online at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov).

## Small River Walleyes

### Bob Jensen

Wherever walleyes live, there are small rivers that are home to these walleyes. These small rivers can be fished from shore, an angler can wade, or you can fish from a small boat. In the larger small rivers, you can go with a bigger boat. Simply said, this is action that absolutely anyone who wants to go fishing can take advantage of. Here's how you can get in on the action.

There are a few things an angler needs to keep in mind to be successful on small to mid-size rivers. First, remember that deep water will be only ten or twelve feet deep, and there will be lots of areas in the three to five foot depths. Water clarity and light

conditions will determine where the walleyes are. If the water is clear, like it is right now on many Midwest rivers, the walleyes will be in the deeper water during the day, but they'll move shallow on cloudy days or at night.

After rains or when there is run-off from snow-melt, they'll be shallow much more often, as the water clarity will be reduced.

When the water is clear, walleyes will be in the deeper water, but close to shallow water. They will also prefer areas that have slack water. They typically don't want to be fighting fast moving water.

If you're a wading angler, get into a spot, then stay there for a few minutes. Fan-

cast the area completely before moving. This prevents spooking the fish. If the water is a little stained, and you're still, you'll be surprised how many walleyes will hit your bait almost right at your feet. It happens more often than you might expect, but you've got to be quiet.

You can catch'em on jigs, hard baits, and slip-bobber rigs. Jigs are probably the most popular. A dragging retrieve will be good, but in many rivers, it's just not practical to drag a jig: You'll get snagged too much. Try a Slurp! Jig, eighth ounce, tipped with a three inch Power Grub. Swim it just above the bottom. If the current is

*Continued on page 14*

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## Sioux Empire Walleyes Unlimited Fishing Tournament Application

- ◆ Tournament will be a one-day event scheduled for July 14, 2012 out of Platte Creek. July 15, 2011 will be bad weather date. There will be a limit of 50 teams. One team member must be a current member of SD Walleyes Unlimited.
- ◆ There will be a supper buffet @ 5:30 pm July 14 at the Platte Creek Store for all participants. Meal sandwiches and salads) is included in the entry fee.
- ◆ The entry fee will be \$60.00 per 2 person team. Any team that has more than two members will pay an extra \$10.00 per extra team member. **Applications must be received by July 1, 2011. No applications will be accepted after July 1, 2011.**
- ◆ Submit your completed Application, along with your check or money order, to South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited; PO Box 89514; Sioux Falls, SD 57109-9514
- ◆ Fishing hours will be from 7 am to 4 pm. The rules meeting will be 6:45 at boat dock.
- ◆ This will be 100% payback tournament (less cost of supper).

### Application for Sioux Empire Walleyes Unlimited Tournament

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**Sioux Falls, SD 57109-9514**

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# Boaters Encouraged to Be Safe on Rivers

**GFP**

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota rivers are filling with the rush of water from the spring snow melt, which can present extra challenges to boaters on those rivers.

“The power of a rapidly running river can create interest among boaters, canoers and kayakers,” said Brandon Gust, boating safety coordinator in the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. “It is a unique and exciting boating opportunity, but those waters also bring safety concerns that should be at the forefront of every outing.”

Low-head dams are high on the list of concerns, and Gust advises boaters to completely avoid them.

“Those structures are called ‘drowning machines’ for a reason,” he said. “Water rolling over low-head dams can capsize boats. The overflow on the dam causes a down-force that can pull a person under, even if wearing a flotation vest.”

Bubbles created by flows over a low-head dam reduce a person’s natural buoyancy. The overflow will pull people under the water, and they may hit rocks or other debris and lose the ability to react. The depth and force of the water will draw victims and debris back toward the dam, and may result in drowning.

“Personal flotation devices are a must for boaters, but even those life-saving aids may not be sufficient against the power of water rushing over low-head dams,” Gust said. “Victims have drowned with their life jackets on and even had the jackets ripped off them.”

Debris caught in the spring rush of rivers can also create eddies that are potentially very dangerous to swimmers. Debris can snag a swimmer’s legs or clothing and place their life in jeopardy by pulling them under the water.

Gust recommends the following safety tips for boaters:

- Tell someone where you are going, when you expect to return, and where to call if you don't.
- Be sure your water skills and experience are equal to the river and the conditions.
- Never boat alone.
- Wear a properly-fitted personal flotation device (PFD) at all times when you are in or near the river.
- Be prepared for extremes in weather, especially cold weather. Know about the dangers of hypothermia and how to deal with it. Know early signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and dehydration in hot weather.
- Reduce the threat of injury by wearing protective footwear and proper clothing.
- Carry a first-aid kit and know how to use it. Learn or review medical aid responsibilities and CPR.
- When in doubt, stop and scout.

# Small River Walleyes

*Continued from page 12*

low, a sixteenth ounce jig tipped with a minnow will be good. Keep the bait swimming: If a walleye wants to eat it, it will. Work your jigs across the current, but work them so they're moving downstream like a wounded minnow or bug would be moving.

A #5 Flicker Shad can be good also. You can cast this bait downstream and work it back upstream, but work it slowly, especially if the water is stained. Crank it down to the bottom, then use your rod tip to keep it down while you slowly retrieve it. Much of the time you'll want your rod tip

right at the water's surface.

If the fish are in an eddy, and the water isn't swirling too fast, and if the action is slow, try a slip-bobber. Rig it so the minnow is just above the bottom.

Now is a great time to be on the river. This past winter has been a pretty mild one, but there are still lots of anglers eager to get on or in the water. If that small river near your home has some walleyes in it, now is the perfect time to catch some. Keep the smaller ones, put the big ones back. If you do, we'll be able to enjoy this fishing for lots of springs ahead.

## Fishing Reports Just a Click Away

A South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited sponsor, Dakota Anglers, has a great website that fishermen from all around the state can use to see what's biting and where it is biting at. Just go to the Dakota Angler website at: <http://www.dakotaangler.com/> and you will find the report under the Fishing Resources tab on the top. Thank you for having this great service for all fishermen!

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### MISSION STATEMENT:

**S.D.W.U. is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and improving all fisheries within the state of South Dakota. Through memberships, community involvement, and family participation we can restore the forage base and create restocking programs that will benefit all South Dakota waters. SDWU will strive to accomplish these goals in a fiscal, environmental, and responsible manner.**



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## **All SDWU Members**

*In an effort to become a better organization and to give all members a voice, SDWU encourages you to utilize the website [www.sdwalleyesunlimited.org](http://www.sdwalleyesunlimited.org). Many of us are unable to make the monthly meetings because of commitments or geography. The website will allow you to voice your thoughts and to keep up with the current events of your local chapter.*