



July 2015

[www.sdwalleyesunlimited.org](http://www.sdwalleyesunlimited.org)

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## Spring Classic Walleye Classic Results

The Spring Walleye Classic was held April 25 and 26 at Angostura Reservoir near Hot Springs. The two-day tournament hosted two-member teams with catch, measure and release rules.

Teams were allowed to carry four walleyes with only two being 20 inches or greater at once, then you have to go get them measured and released. Ten fish a day were allowed, but you could only count the best six fish. There were 42 teams participating.

Day one was normal, rain showers with just a light 10 to 15 mile per hour wind gusting up into to the 20 to 30 miles an hour. All the teams showed and where eager to hit the water. The volunteers at the dock got an early start on measuring the first catches of the day. The crew on board the Good Ship Lollipop made their voyage to their first set up location near Pig Beach and had a slow start, but soon had plenty of excited anglers visiting them. There were 167 fish registered for weigh in, along with several less desired fish. The average length was 16.68 inches with an average weight of 2.48 pounds. The largest walleye measured 30 inches and was approximately 10 pounds. We think that's a good day on the water for many of South Dakota's lakes.

Day two was once again just a normal day, a little more wind, a little more rain with some sunshine mixed in. The dock team didn't have to wait long for the action to begin. Anglers didn't waste any time setting the hook and motoring in. On the other hand the Good Ship Lollipop set up in a little different location, but not far from the day one location. They too didn't wait long for anglers to boat in and measure their

catch. There were 163 walleyes registered for weigh in, and some of those less desired fish. Average length was 16.54 inches with average weight of 2.25 pounds. Two 27.5 inch walleyes were measured for largest walleye they were approximately 8 pounds, another great day for any South Dakota lake.

A total of 330 walleyes registered and there were only five known casualties, but those were gladly taken as rewards for volunteering.

The top 15 teams were:

1. #17 Simkins and Simkins 12 fish 39.4 lbs
2. #37 Blickensderfer and Olson 12 fish 35.86 lbs
3. # 24 Oleson and Holsworth 11 fish 35.65 lbs
4. #7 Edel and Mithchell 11 fish 33.36 lbs
5. #4 Garner and Garner 9 fish 32.35 lbs
6. #31 Svoboda and Kainz 12 fish 32.04 lbs
7. #26 Reindl and Arbuckle 12 fish 31.46 lbs
8. #23 Clauson and Conrad 12 fish 31.06 lbs
9. #13 Bradeen and Robb 5 fish 29.55 lbs
10. #27 Sukut and Berger 12 fish 28.98 lbs
11. #10 Erhart and Erhart 12 fish 28.12 lbs
12. #12 Diegeland Diegel 12 fish 28.075 lbs
13. # 40 Albright McNann 12 fish 25.82 lbs
14. #2 Bohls and Sherman 11 fish 25.8 lbs
15. #6 Warren and Adams 12 fish 25.52 lbs

The tournament was a success and we have started to make plans for 2016. Thanks to all the volunteers for their time and energy that it takes to make the events happen.

## Camp Bob Marshall and SDWU

SDWU sponsors scholarship money for teens to attend Camp Bob Marshall each summer. Ten kids came each day, June 3 and June 4, from Camp Bob Marshall to fish in groups of two per boat with the volunteer anglers from Walleyes Unlimited and South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks. Walleyes Unlimited had three boats and SDGFP had two boats. Fishing was slow in the morning, but picked up in the afternoon. Each boat provided two or more fish to the camp on both days. The Rapid City Chapter of South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited member volunteers were Ken Edel, Delbert Stover, Lamoyne Darnell, Verdell Brand and Larry Talley. Gene Galinat and Bill Miller were the employee volunteers from Game Fish & Parks.



*Camp Bob Marshall teens with Delbert Stover and Verdell Brand.*

# Denny Dunlap Memorial In Place at Camp Bob Marshall



Rapid City Chapter Members Showing the Denny Dunlap Memorial Plaque that Will Hang at Camp Bob Marshall



SDWU donated six rod and reel combos along with equipped tackle boxes in memory of Denny Dunlap for the kids at Camp Bob Marshall to learn and continue the enjoyment of fishing.



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# Walleye Unlimited Members Testify

## Bill Blickensderfer

Members of service groups like Walleyes Unlimited are involved and informed with current and upcoming regulations. We care enough to promote and preserve our passion in a positive way. I would like to thank two members of the Rapid City Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited that took the time to testify to the Commission to make sure the regulations on anglers would not get out-of-

hand. Jim Sherman and Ken Edel were the only two anglers to show up and testify on that day as far as Jim knew. I know a lot of people wrote letters, but while talking to Jim he said that one of the commissioners paid attention to what they were trying to say in person that day. As the law was going to stand, it would read that no bait could leave any water in the state. Bait would have to be dumped in the trash or fish cleaning stations. Both Ken and Jim explained the water is the

problem, not the bait. They testified that treated tap water would be no threat to the spread of unwanted species and that if bait could be transferred in tap water, it would show responsibility of the anglers to care for our natural resources. As the regulations read now, it makes sense and the Game and Fish has even released a video on how to properly handle your bait and boat to stop the spread of invasive species. So thanks again Jim and Ken for presenting the anglers viewpoint.

## Fire on the Water

### Bill Blickensderfer

While fishing, some of you may have been approached by a Conservation Officer stating they are conducting a safety check. To let anglers know - this is actually a Federal regulation and I believe states are contracted to do this safety check. Last year, I was approached during the South Dakota Governor's Cup Fishing Tournament by an officer doing a safety check. I was given a warning for having the pin pulled on my fire extinguisher. It did not cost me anything, but the officer did take my license and I could hear him doing a back ground check, which took more than 20 minutes. Why was the pin pulled? I will tell you why... I was in another tournament two years previously and the officer in the inspection line actually pulled the pin to fire it to see if it worked. It did. In summary, make sure that you are up on these basic regulations: functioning fire extinguisher, throw cushion, and life jacket of proper size for every rider in the boat.

## Anglers are Reminded Not to Move Lake Water When Fishing

### Courtesy South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) would like to remind anglers of the new rules regarding fish and bait transportation.

Bait can only be transported away from a water body in domestic water (tap water, well water, bottled water, ice). Boat anglers can wait until they reach an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station to put their bait in domestic water. They can dump out the lake water and fill their bait bucket up with water from the fish cleaning station or water they brought with them.

A shore angler can do the same if they are able to access the domestic water source at a fish cleaning station that is immediately adjacent or if they bring domestic water with them.

Unused minnows should be poured into the fish grinder at a cleaning station or drained and disposed of in the trash

containers at the boat launch or cleaning areas. It is a violation of state statute to dump unused minnows into a water body in South Dakota.

The new regulations are featured online at [sdleastwanted.com](http://sdleastwanted.com). Anglers can also learn more about transporting their bait through a three minute video tutorial on the site. GFP staff and volunteers are also available to help answer any questions.

"As much information as we provided up front on the implementation of these new regulations, we know there are still going to be questions," said Kelly Hepler, GFP Secretary. "I would encourage people to call our offices or ask a GFP employee if they are in any way uncertain of how to comply with these new regulations. We are trying to ensure everyone who wants to enjoy South Dakota's waters can do so with the confidence that they know these new rules. These are big changes and our staff are a great resource and willing to help field customer concerns."



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# Sioux Empire Chapter President's News

## Jeff Decker – President

A pleasant spring and an early greeting of summer to you all!

## Members Annual 100% Payback Fishing Tournament Held June 20th at Platte Creek

Too early for press time, the results of this tournament will appear in the next newsletter. As many of you are aware, this 50-team maximum limit tournament is very well managed and very well attended. Last year, it took over 18 pounds with six fish to claim top prize and bragging rights...we will see what this years holds!

## Sioux Empire Gives Back

The Sioux Empire Chapter has begun the season of giving back. We as members can all take pride in these accomplishments.

For the past many years we have contributed to the Bob Marshall Outdoor Wilderness Camp. The cost of camp continues to go up for high school age kids interested in wildlife and fisheries. Once again, the Sioux Empire Chapter donated \$1,500.00. This donation funds four campers for a full week at Camp Bob Marshall.

The 13th Annual Firefighters/Paralyzed Veterans of America Joel Niemeyer Memorial "Gone Fishing" Walleye Event was held in Chamberlain/Oacoma, SD on May 21-22, 2015. Our chapter donated \$200.00 to assist with expenses. The event's goal was to serve approximately 40 disabled anglers.

At last month's chapter meeting it was voted on and approved that our Sioux Empire Chapter would sponsor and fully fund 15 hand grab rails (see drawing).

Locations for the handrails which will be placed by the Game, Fish and Parks are:

- Platte Creek – 1 handrail
- Marina Dock, Lewis & Clark – 2 handrails
- West Midway, Lewis & Clark – 1 handrail
- East Midway, Lewis & Clark – 4 handrails
- Gavins Area, Lewis & Clark – 2 handrails
- Region 3 Lake Area Use – 5 handrails needed (they didn't give me an exact location)

These locations were identified as a need since these are legacy docks and new dock placements are provided with hand rails. As a chapter, we provided 100% sponsorship of \$3,225.00 for this project which will also include signage recognizing SDWU as the sponsor.

These projects as well as past and all future projects are a direct result of your membership and the annually sold out Walleye Banquet.



## Upcoming Needs for Our Chapter's Continued Success

Please consider volunteering for these important positions in our chapter. Please call Jeff Decker at 402-980-3129 with questions and to volunteer.

**Chapter Secretary** – Duties include attending monthly meetings (as many as you will be able to attend) and taking notes of the current discussions; reviewing those notes with members at the next meeting; and helping to oversee and perform tasks for chapter mailing notifications. This position has an immediate need and your support will be greatly appreciated!

**Vice President** – We will need a vice president in October. The current vice president, Todd Trumm, will be assuming the role of president. The vice president will work in support of and backup the chapter president when necessary. The vice president may be asked to run the monthly meeting in the president's absence. The vice president will also provide a voice for the chapter and support chapter activities.

**Banquet Chairperson(s)** – This role will be best filled by multiple individuals each taking a small slice of the pie. As a chairperson(s), you will organize/coordinate the annual chapter Walleye Banquet. Mark Mattison has offered to fill the role of mentoring and has documented the process from start to finish with an excellent standard operating procedure to follow, so you won't be going it on your own. There are opportunities for changes that will improve the banquet. You will organize and follow up on volunteers that work in support of the banquet and assign duties and responsibilities to volunteers. There already is a substantial group of volunteers and vendors that support the banquet currently in place. Chairperson(s) will coordinate with them to host the banquet. The intent is to split the banquet chairpersons into three positions, if needed, to help in distributing the time required for this position.

Please get together with some friends and take this on. This is our chief fundraiser for our chapter, so you can really make a difference by helping with the banquet.

Thank you to all SDWU members state wide. Your membership and contribution of time and resources are the reason that SDWU is the largest organized and most giving fishing group in the state of South Dakota.

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"If people concentrated  
on the really important things in life,  
there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."  
— Doug Larson

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## Rapid Creek Cleanup

On two separate days - April 30 and May 4, members from the Rapid City area chapter participated in the spring cleanup of two sections of Rapid Creek. There were 10 members that helped with these two events and they collected approximately 30 garbage bags of debris. Some of the items included rugs, clothes, cans, paper and bottles. Each clean up takes about two hours and has made a great improvement in these two sections of the creek.



## New Rules to Help Slow the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Courtesy South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

As of May 11, 2015, boaters and anglers, residents and nonresidents, are required to comply with new rules to help slow the spread of aquatic invasive species in water bodies across the state.

These new rules require boaters and anglers to clean all vegetation and aquatic invasive species from a boat, trailer or other watercraft. The rules also require all drain plugs or similar devices to be opened or removed; except when in the boat ramp parking lot or when the boat is being launched or loaded. A boat may have these devices closed or in place while en route to a fish cleaning station immediately adjacent to where the boat was loaded, but they must be opened or removed before leaving the fish cleaning station.

Transporting bait or fish in water taken from a lake, river or stream is not allowed. Bait may only be transported in water taken

from a lake, river or stream while en route to a fish cleaning station located immediately adjacent to the lake, river or stream, but must be drained prior to leaving the fish cleaning station. Anglers may still transport bait away from a lake, river or stream if bait is in well water or treated tap water.

Anglers have three options for transporting whole fish for cleaning at home or at a cleaning station not immediately adjacent to the boat ramp.

In a container (not a part of the boat), that is filled with domestic water (tap water, well water, bottled water, ice).

On ice - in a cooler or pull the plug on their live well and fill it with ice (plug must remain out).

Dry - put fish in an empty bucket or pull the live well plug before leaving the boat ramp and let it drain when traveling.

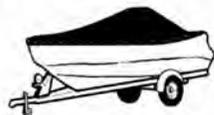
If there is not a cleaning station at the site where anglers are fishing, drain plugs must be opened and bait containers must be free of lake water before leaving the

boat launch area.

"We realize these are big changes for boaters and anglers across the state," concluded Kelly Hepler, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Secretary. "And we thank those who have already started to comply with these new rules and for helping us spread the message about how others can do their part to slow the spread of aquatic invasive species in South Dakota. If each of us takes responsibility to do what we can to protect our resources today, these outdoor activities will continue to be enjoyed by future generations for years to come. Thank you again."

For more information on the newly effective aquatic invasive species rules and how to help slow their spread in South Dakota water bodies, please refer to the newly launched website at: <http://sdleastwanted.com/>. For easy reference, rack cards outlining these rules are also available at nearby licensing agents, GFP offices and in state parks and recreational areas.

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# The Three Musketeers of AIS Prevention

## Bill Blickensderfer

There is a new inspector in town, well three actually. Three members of the Rapid City Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited became certified in Wyoming as Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Water Craft Inspectors. Why would South Dakota dudes want to do this? Well, Terry Weaver from Rapid City states that he does a lot of fishing in Wyoming and also works part-time at a bait shop between fishing trips. Terry says that the more he can learn the more he can help people understand the truth and how important it is to save our lakes. He also wanted to learn the exact rules and regulations and what to do when he goes to Wyoming to fish. Jim Sherman was asked on why he is in the class and he stated that he also likes to fish Wyoming. He says that he wants to learn as much as he can about AIS so he can stop the spread of AIS and educate boaters about the subject. When I was asked why I took the time to take this course, I simply stated I want the facts. I like to learn and when the class was offered I was very interested.

Simply put, this class was fantastic! The instructor was Greg Downey who is the regional Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist. As soon as the class started, you

knew immediately that Greg had experience and full knowledge of the subjects. He worked in the field as a tech inspector himself and had many stories and experiences to share. He won't mind me giving his number so if you have any questions about Wyoming call him at (307)672-7427.

What did we learn? This was a very hands-on course. We did inspections of boats in the most common areas to look for mussels. The class included all invasive species, what they do, and how harmful they can be. A lot of time was spent on Quagga mussels and silver carp – both found this year in South Dakota. But all invasive plants and animals were discussed. We spent time classifying watercraft and what are high-risk and what are low-risk carriers. Wyoming is very adamant that all watercraft can be vectors for the spread of AIS.

I personally think that the anglers have been unfairly targeted in this state and would like a different approach. We are all in this together and all share a responsibility if we keep saying angler not boater then the boater doesn't think he has to worry. Procedures as simple as burping a jet ski are critical to stopping AIS. What is burping? When the jet ski is on the trailer, kick it over and get the water out of it. Both

inboard/outboard and inboard motors have to be extra careful because water goes inside the craft.

So what can we do? Follow the regulations South Dakota has set forth. Pull the plugs. Go above and beyond and wipe up and get rid of any free standing water. Transfer bait according to the law. Get all vegetation off your boat and trailer (mud too).

Last but not least, if you hear the words decontamination, don't panic like I did. Decontamination is simply washing your boat in hot water (140 deg). So if you are heading to Wyoming, for example, it might be a good idea to call ahead to the port of entry to let them know you will probably need a decontamination. It takes a few minutes, but the techs are really nice and good about it. If your boat is dry and clean - even better!

Another example would be for an inboard/outboard motor: a decontamination would involve a 90-second motor flush at 140 degrees. It is that simple. We should push for voluntary motor flush and ballast flush areas in our state, especially at high risk lakes. Washing your boat in water cooler than 140 degrees does not kill microorganisms. So keep them dry as you can.

"Thank you, dear God, for this good life and forgive us if we do not love it enough. Thank you for the rain. And for the chance to wake up in three hours and go fishing: I thank you for that now, because I won't feel so thankful then."

— Garrison Keillor

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# MRS Walleye Tagging Study Continues

**Courtesy North Dakota Game and Fish Department**

Year two of a four-year walleye tagging study on the Missouri River and Lake Oahe is complete, and returns are providing biologists with valuable information.

Paul Bailey, North Dakota Game and Fish Department south central district fisheries supervisor, said nearly 17,000 fish were tagged in 2013 and 2014, the first two years of the study, and more than 3,000 tag numbers were turned in by anglers.

"The study is designed to assess walleye movements, mortality and what proportion of the walleye population is harvested annually by anglers," Bailey said.

The study area extends from the Garrison Dam in central North Dakota downstream to Oahe Dam in South Dakota, and involves a major collaboration of biologists and researchers from North Dakota Game and Fish, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, and South Dakota State University.

The study targets adult walleye, each fitted with a metal jaw tag stamped with a unique number to identify the fish, and a phone number to report the tag. Anglers can either keep or release the fish. Anglers practicing catch-and-release can write the tag number down and report it, leaving the tag on the fish when released.

Bailey said the first two years of the study revealed some interesting movement patterns. "For example, over

half of the tagged walleye that were reported by anglers were caught within 10 miles of where they were tagged and released," he added. "However, fish tagged in North Dakota moved greater distances than those tagged farther downstream, and North Dakota fish moved both upstream and downstream after tagging."

Most of the returns in both 2013 and 2014 were from May, June and July, and Bailey said when the bite slowed in August, so did the returns.

Anglers can report tags by calling the phone number found on tags, which, anglers should note, is a South Dakota phone number. Tag information can also be reported on the Game and Fish

*Continued on Page 9*



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# MRS Walleye Tagging Study Continues

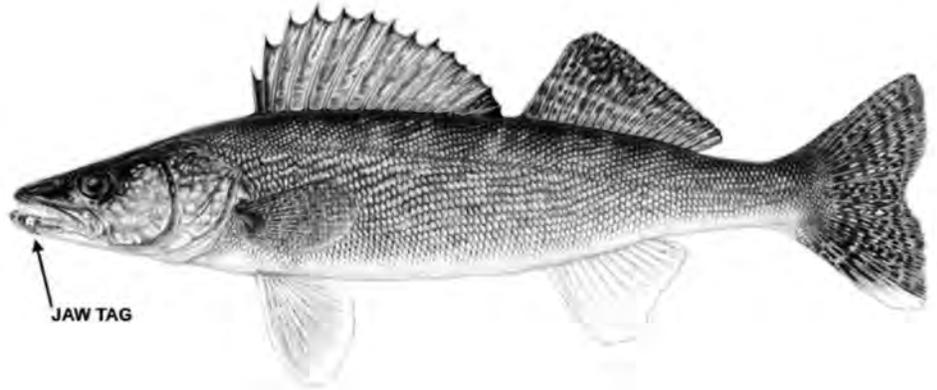
*Continued from Page 8*

Department's website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), or by calling 701-328-6300.

Anglers should record the date and location of the catch, whether the fish was kept or released, tag number and length and weight (if the fish was measured). Anglers who report tagged fish can keep the tag, and will receive a letter providing some history on the fish.

A small portion of the tags offer a reward to anglers to encourage returns, Bailey said, with these tags clearly marked "Reward."

Reward tags must be physically turned in to Game and Fish offices in Riverdale or Bismarck, or to a Game, Fish and Parks office in South Dakota.



*Illustration Courtesy South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks*

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# Colorful Fish Pizza Recipe

Courtesy of Kris Winkelman

- Prep Time: 15 minutes  
 Cook Time: 10 minutes
- 1 8 oz. tube refrigerated crescent rolls or 1 tube refrigerated pizza dough
  - 1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
  - 1 ½ cups fresh spinach - coarsely chopped (divided)
  - 2 green onions - thinly sliced
  - 1 ½ tsp. fresh dill - minced
  - 1 tsp. lemon peel - grated (divided)
  - ½ tsp. lemon juice
  - 1 ½ cups fish - cooked and crumbled
  - 1 tsp. cocktail sauce

Diced red peppers  
 Sliced black olives  
 Black pepper to taste

Unroll dough and place on pizza pan, flatten and bake until golden brown at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes. Set aside until cool. In a bowl, blend cocktail sauce with cream cheese, then stir in half the spinach, fish, green onions, lemon juice and half the lemon peel. Add pepper to taste. Spread on cooled crust. Top with olives, remaining spinach, and remaining lemon peel. Cut in to pieces and serve.



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**PLEASE PRINT – we need your current mailing address, so you receive our newsletter.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_

Names of family members (spouse & children under 18) wishing to have membership cards:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Annual membership:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00

**Total remitted:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited (SDWU).

Send checks to: SDWU, Membership Coordinator, PO Box 89514, Sioux Falls, SD 57109

If you are interested in active participation in our organization, please indicate where your interests lie.

Annual Banquet \_\_\_\_\_, Kids Fishing Day \_\_\_\_\_, Annual Member Fishing Tournament \_\_\_\_\_,

Program Committee (help arrange guest speakers etc. for monthly meetings) \_\_\_\_\_,

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**MISSION STATEMENT: SDWU is a statewide membership driven organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and improving fisheries in the state of South Dakota. We are committed to promoting the sport of fishing and outdoor activities through education, conservation, activism, and fiscal responsibility to ensure opportunity, access and habitat for anglers of all ability levels.**

**SDWU is recognized by the IRS as a public charity under IRC Sec. 501(c)(3).**

**Your membership fee is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.**



Webpage [sdwalleyesunlimited.org](http://sdwalleyesunlimited.org) Email [info@sdwalleyesunlimited.org](mailto:info@sdwalleyesunlimited.org)



South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited  
P.O. Box 89514  
Sioux Falls, SD 57109-9514

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SIOUX FALLS, SD  
PERMIT NO. 7900

## 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.*