



January 2014

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Annual Statewide SDWU Meeting

It will soon be time to gather for our annual statewide SDWU meeting. This year's meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Ft. Pierre on January 18, 2014. Please contact the Holiday Inn Express at 800-586-9061 or 605-223-9045 to reserve a room by December 30, 2013. A block of rooms has been reserved for a limited time at a rate of \$89.00 per night.

There will be social time on Friday evening. Below is an agenda and guest speakers who have agreed to present to our group:

- **8:30 – 11:00 am CT**
SDWU Board Meeting
- **11:00 am – Noon CT** Lunch
- **Noon – 3:00 pm CT**
Afternoon Seminars by GF&P

- o Mark Fincel & Geno Adams will give us an update on the condition of Lake Sharpe and Lake Oahe. They will also provide some background on the various surveys conducted on Lake Oahe, why they conduct them and what the surveys tell us.
- o Emmett Keyser will present an update on the open waters bill that the Department is working. This issue ties back to HB 1135 which was introduced during the 2013 legislative session and, if passed, would have closed thousands of acres of water across South Dakota to public access. The 2013 legislature killed the bill on the agreement that the parties would bring a compromise bill back for consideration in the 2014 session.

Rollickin' Good Time Does Good!

Nancy Smith, RCAC Chapter

The Rapid City Chapter is preparing for the Ninth Annual Walleye Banquet on Saturday, March 22, 2014 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Moose Lodge on East St. Patrick Road in Rapid City. The social hour starts at 5:00 pm.

This banquet is the chief fundraiser for the Chapter and allows RCAC to host Kids Fishing Day, give away fishing gear to 150 kids each summer, participate in dock and

conservation projects at area lakes, and provide college scholarships for fisheries majors.

The event, widely known for its fun times, great entertainment and generous patrons, is attended by over 350 people. If you would like to donate any items to the auction, or buy raffle tickets for the Canadian Fishing Trip, please contact Larry Smith at 605-343-1052 or gofishy_mn@yahoo.com

Central South Dakota Chapter

Bret Afdahl, President

SD Parks and Recreation Organization Citation Award

The Central South Dakota Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited received the South Dakota Parks and Recreation Organization Citation Award on October 2, 2013 for their efforts in the Lake Sharpe cleanup. Bill Englehart accepted the award on behalf of the Chapter. SD Parks and Recreation feels the organization has made outstanding contributions to parks, recreation and conservation at the local and state levels.

Central SD Chapter Officer Elections

The officer elections for the Central SD Chapter were held December 17, 2013.

- President – Bret Afdahl
- Vice – Vacant



Pictured left to right: Tom Farnsworth, City of Pierre, Director of Parks & Recreation, Bill Englehart, member of Central SD Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited, Pat Buscher, GFP District Park Supervisor.

- At Large – Dugan Petersen
- Treasurer – Dustin Christopherson
- Secretary – Vacant

Rapid City Area Chapter President's News

Mike Johnson, President

Final Address of Departing President Mike Johnson

This edition of the SDWU newsletter marks my final address as President of the RCAC, and it is bittersweet. I am excited for the change and the new ideas this opportunity may bring to the group. I'm pleased that someone new has stepped away from their comfort zone to take a leadership role, and even more pleased by the commitment from the club members to guarantee our new President's success. Good Luck Cal – I have confidence in you.

I say bittersweet because as necessary as it was to relieve myself of this responsibility, I will miss it. I have

mentioned this before, but it bears repeating - I have met and gotten to know so many wonderful people during my tenure as President. I doubt I would ever have had the opportunity to interact with them had I not taken the opportunity offered to me by the club. They include Dr. David Willis and Dr. Melissa Wuellner of SDSU; several representatives of the SDGF&P, including John Cooper, Geno Adams, Mark Fincel, Gene Galinat, Todd St. Sauvier, John Kanta, and Brian Blackwell; fishing professionals Jason Mitchell, Gary Roach, and Pete Harsh; and other members of SDWU from across the state. I am especially grateful for the friendships and comradeship I have enjoyed with members of the state board, but I have to

give special mention to Jeff Decker, and Woody and Ruth Tiggelaar, who have become like family to both Brenda and me. My success as President since 2008 is certainly not my own. I hope you are all as grateful as I am for the services of Lee Jensen as Secretary/ Treasurer, Loren Kasuske as V.P., Larry Smith as Banquet Coordinator, Denny Bohls as former V.P. and Dock Project Coordinator, Denny Dunlap and Delbert Stover as Founding Members and Officers, and all of the members that have generously donated their time, tools, and talents over the years to make each and every project fun and successful. Of particular note, I have to mention Ken Edel, who has become a

Continued on Page 3

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Sioux Empire Chapter President's News

Jeff Decker, President

Meandering Water Issue – HB1135 Resurfaced

The times are repeating themselves in 2014. It's dejavu all over! Once again we are being faced with the meandering water issue, with HB1135.

Folks, the opportunity for water to be put off limits to fishermen, hunters, bird watchers, and recreational boaters, you name it, is greater than ever. Currently, surveys are being done of flooded land in the Northeast and if you think this is just idle action and limited to the Northeast, this would be a huge misconception.

The Empire Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited and the 29-90 Sportsmen held meetings for members and the public on Dec. 11 with presentations by Tony Leif, GFP Director and Emmett Keyser Assistant Director. On December 17, the annual legislative night was held at the Outdoor Campus, hosted by 29-90 Outdoorsman. Eight Legislators of Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties had confirmed their attendance.

HB1135 was a key talking point at both meetings. There are 8,000 bodies of water

in the Northeast. If HB1135 passes, we will have access to only 75 of them. The remaining 7,925 bodies of water are subject to trespassing fines or being required to pay a fee to recreate on them.

Whether you attended or missed either of these December meetings, I urge you to contact your local legislators and remind them that South Dakotans reject the privatization of public water. Pester them to the point that they know your phone number or email by heart.

SDWU is the largest organized fishing group in the State of South Dakota. It's time to flex some of that unity along with the other SD sporting groups and put this bill out of all of our misery.

Fish Alaska

Sioux Empire Chapter is stepping out of its unwritten policy regarding selling opportunities to win. Beginning in January, 2014, we will be selling a limited number of chances to win a luxury package for two individuals to fish in Alaska. The lucky folks will depart from Omaha, fly to Juneau, Alaska, and depart from Juneau by turbo prop plane to Elfin Cove for 3 days of guided fishing. Please

look in this newsletter for a full page ad for additional details.

2014 Greater Outdoor Show Volunteers Needed for WU Booth

January 17-19, 2014 kicks off the sport show season. The annual Greater Outdoor Show in Sioux Falls is again being held at the Lyons Fairground EXPO building.

Many of you like to attend the show. Can you think of a better way to get in for no charge than by donating a couple hours of your time in helping with the Walleyes Unlimited booth? Give me a call and let me know your availability on any of those days (January 17, January 18, or January 19, 2014).

Thank you for supporting SD Walleyes Unlimited

As I wrap up this message to our members, I want to say thank you very much for your support of South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited. Each and every one of you is a strategic member to the success of our organization and without your support, we would not exist as an organization.

Be safe out there!

Rapid City Area Chapter President's News, Continued

Continued from Page 2

mentor to me for his leadership skills, tact, passion, tenacity and wit. Your contributions will stay with me for many years. Most especially, I want to thank my wife and fishing partner Brenda for her

support, ideas, time, energy and patience – "You're the best."

The newsletter isn't long enough to name everyone, but each of you that continue to support this worthwhile organization have forever become a part of me, and I hope you will continue to

belong. I encourage you to become active and involved so that you too may enjoy the fraternity that I have had the privilege to lead.

Farewell and Good Fishin'.

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2014 Calendar of Events

RCAC = Rapid City Area Chapter

SEAC = Sioux Empire Area Chapter

CSDC = Central SD Chapter

CHAPTER	DATE	EVENT	INFORMATION
State RCAC	January 18, 2014 January 20, 2014	State Meeting Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Express, Fort Pierre, SD Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
SEAC	January 21, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
RCAC	February 17, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
SEAC	February 18, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
RCAC	March 17, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
SEAC	March 18, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
RCAC	March 22, 2014	Rapid City Chapter 9th Annual Walleye Banquet	Moose Lodge, 841 E. St. Patrick Street, Rapid City
SEAC	March 29, 2014	Sioux Empire Chapter Walleye Banquet	Crooks Gun Club, Doors open 5 pm
SEAC	April 16, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
RCAC	April 21, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
RCAC	May 19, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
SEAC	May 20, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
RCAC	June 16, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
SEAC	June 17, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
SEAC	June 21, 2014	Sioux Empire Chapter Walleye Fishing Tournament	Platte Creek
SEAC	July 16, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
RCAC	July 21, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
RCAC	August 18, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
SEAC	August 20, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
RCAC	September 15, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
SEAC	September 17, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
RCAC	October 20, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
SEAC	October 22, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
RCAC	November 17, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
SEAC	November 18, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
RCAC	December 15, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West (Sturgis Road) at 7 pm
SEAC	December 16, 2014	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East (4500 Oxbow, Sioux Falls) at 7 pm
CSDC		Chapter Meetings are held as needed.	Contact Bret Afdahl at 605-222-2972 for meeting dates, time and place.

Sioux Empire Walleyes Unlimited Fishing Tournament Application

- Tournament will be a one-day event scheduled for June 21, 2014 out of Platte Creek. June 22, 2014 will be bad weather day. 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 at 5:30 pm on June 21 at the Platte Creek Store for all participants. The 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 June 14, 2014. No applications will be accepted after June 14, 2014.**
- 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 TBD.
- This will be a 100% payback tournament (less cost of supper).

Application for Sioux Empire Walleyes Unlimited Tournament

Please Print Legibly!

Member's Name _____

Partner's Name _____

Extra Partner's Name _____

Member's Home Phone _____

Member's Work/Cell Phone _____

Return Application and Payment to
South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited
PO Box 89514

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Call LeRoy Huntimer at (605) 201-7747 with any questions.

I once gave up fishing. It was the most terrifying weekend of my life. – Anonymous



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FISH ALASKA



Beginning in mid-January 2014, the Sioux Empire Chapter will be selling a limited number of chances to win a **luxury package for two to fish in Alaska**. This package includes a Travel Voucher for \$1,600.00. Winners will depart from Omaha, fly to Juneau, Alaska, and depart from Juneau by float plane to Elfin Cove for three (3) days of guided fishing. **The winners will be responsible for one night's lodging when they arrive in Juneau, and one night's lodging before return to Omaha.*

At Elfin Cove, winners will stay at Cross Sound Lodge featuring spacious and comfortable rooms and private bathrooms. Mornings include chef-prepared breakfasts, followed by snacks and lunch on the water. The evening meal at the lodge is a plated dinner with dessert, served by the friendly staff at Cross Sound Lodge.

Eagle Charters will be your guide while you fish for salmon, rock fish, lingcod, halibut, and rock bass. See www.eaglecharters.com for more information. Trip availability is limited to June 1 – September 1, 2014, **the best time to fish Elfin Cove**.

For more information, contact Woody (605) 351-7412 or Mark (605) 940-6512. **Tickets for your chance to win this once-in-a-lifetime trip will be sold for \$100 each.**

Buy your tickets today!



GF&P Rule Changes Adopted –

Resident Fee Changes

- Fishing: Annual \$28; Senior \$12; One-Day \$8; Paddlefish Tag \$25

Nonresident Fee Changes

- Fishing: Annual \$67; Family \$67; One-Day \$16; Three-Day \$37; Paddlefish Tag \$25; Game Fish Spearing \$5

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission adopted several rule changes for 2014 centering on fishing, spearing fish and the taking of bait that went into effect December 15, 2013.

- Adopted prohibition of felt-soled boots or waders in any South Dakota waters. These waders can trap sediment and organic material and may transport aquatic invasive plants and animals, disease spores

and unwanted insect larvae from one water to another. South Dakota joins a number of states that have banned the use of felt-soled waders.

- Adopted proposal to increase the possession limit in inland waters for all fish species from two times the daily limit to three times the daily limit. Interested parties petitioned the Commission to increase the statewide possession limit for walleye in inland waters, stressing the economic benefits of such a change to the state. In an effort to keep possession limits consistent among all species, Wildlife Division staff recommended that the proposed increase in possession limits for inland waters apply to all species, not just walleye. The change is expected to have little to no impact on

the resource.

- Adopted change increasing the possession limit on yellow perch from 15 to 30 fish on the South Dakota/Minnesota boundary waters. A recent survey of South Dakota anglers in counties bordering Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska determined that anglers in waters bordering these states were interested in having regulations similar to inland waters. Inland waters currently have a possession limit of 30 yellow perch. This change aligns South Dakota and Minnesota boundary water yellow perch possession limits.

- Adopted special management waters restriction to remove the current walleye limits in effect on Lake Oahe and revert to standard statewide harvest restrictions for

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Effective December 15, 2013

walleye. This change added East and West Heritage Game Production Area ponds to the list of waters with a 15-inch minimum length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

- Adopted proposal to allow rough fish spearing in South Dakota-Minnesota boundary waters year-round, anytime of day or night. This change increases angler opportunity and makes the state's regulation similar to Minnesota's boundary water regulations.

- Adopted proposal to modify areas open to spearing of game fish by removing a subsection allowing game fish spearing in a limited number of waters in eastern South Dakota (spearing for northern pike has been allowed statewide since December

2012 and that will not change). Under this proposal, South Island Lake would be added to the list of lakes in which northern pike spearing is not allowed due to the presence of muskies. This change removed wording that allows the director of the Division of Wildlife to temporarily open areas to game fish spearing for special events and instead give that authority to the GFP Commission through resolution (allowing more opportunity for public input).

- Adopted proposal to allow emerald shiners and spottail shiners to be taken and sold by any licensed resident bait dealer or sold by any licensed nonresident bait dealer.

- Adopted proposal to allow golden

shiners, emerald shiners, spottail shiners and dead gizzard shad to be transported away from the water from which they are taken to be used as bait.

- Adopted proposal to allow the non-commercial taking of bait for that portion of Lewis and Clark Lake and the Missouri River above Gavins Point Dam in Yankton and Bon Homme counties (these areas are closed to the commercial taking of bait).

- Adopted proposal to add Lake Yankton in Yankton County, and Mud Lake and Lake Byron in Beadle County to the list of waters closed year-round to the commercial and non-commercial taking of bait (Asian carp have been found in these waters).

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Sioux Empire SDWU Fundraiser Banquet

Mark Mattison,
Sioux Empire Banquet Chairman

March 29th 2014 -- Save the date!

My wish would be that this greeting finds all in good health and in full holiday spirit. It's time again to start thinking spring fishing, summer camping trips and our annual SDWU fund raiser banquet, Saturday, March 29, 2014, Crooks Gun Club. Doors again will open at 5:00 p.m. Don't drag your feet. 5:00 p.m. early birds always

get the bait! When we open, things get very hectic, wild and fun. We are working on a few new things this year that are still in the planning stages.

Once again, reservations will be \$18 per person with seating limited to 250. You can make your reservations at our SDWU booth at the Greater Outdoor Show, W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds on January 17th, 18th and 19th, 2014 or at the Spring Sportsman Show at the Arena from February 27th through March 2nd, 2014. Also, you can mail your

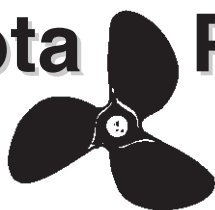
money payable to SDWU for the full amount to SDWU, PO Box 89514, Sioux Falls SD 57109-9514.

Last year was a great year, so let's keep our mission going. Don't delay purchasing your tickets. We have no extra seats; it's a sold out banquet annually. Mark your calendar. Invite your friends. Let's get ready for a great time. It's as much fun for us as it is for you. Any questions, feel free to call me at 605-940-6512.

Thanks again for all your support.

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– Herbert Hoover

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Thank you for supporting SD Walleyes Unlimited!

Thank you for being a valuable SDWU member! It is time to renew your annual SDWU membership. Your continued support allows SDWU to accomplish its goals. Our membership year runs from April 1 to March 31. Members receive quarterly newsletters and other benefits. Our annual membership fee is only \$25.00. **PLEASE PRINT – we need your current mailing address, so you receive our newsletter.**

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Thanks again for your support! 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.



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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. 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.