



MINNESOTA OUT OF DOORS

Volume 3, Number 4

Fall 2014

A message from President John Brinkman

It doesn't seem that long ago when I sat down to write the last article for our MOOD newsletter back in June. Where did the weeks and months go? Staying busy doesn't help slow things down, it seems to speed things up. Like so many of you, I get busy in the summer months with many more outdoor activities. As nature lovers, the walks in the woods, day trips, vacationing, picnics etc. are non-stop. As I always say, "it's easy to stay busy if you want to", assuming the weather cooperates and you can stay healthy. And speaking about weather, wasn't September one of the nicest you can remember.

On September 13-14, Minnesota Conservation Federation held our 62nd Annual Assembly at Ruttgers Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, MN. We had nine clubs and two individuals represented at the Assembly. Among the many topics discussed was that our budget next year will be about \$10,000 short for a deficit spending. We are still struggling with how to generate revenue and looking at cutting expenses. Clubs or individuals with ideas or suggestions please come forward. We will listen.

The MCF officers will remain the same this next year. I remain MCF President, Joe Hoffman, First Vice President, Steve Maurice, Secretary and Rylee Main, Treasurer. The Second Vice President office is still vacant.

Tammy gave the office report and an update on membership for 2014. We currently have 36 A-Clubs and 6 D-Clubs. A-Clubs are up from last year by four clubs. Our speakers were Willis Mattison and Richard Smith of Friends of the Headwaters. They spoke on the pipeline expansion in northern Minnesota.

This year MCF will be working on seven resolutions with our legislators. Gary Botzek will be addressing those and keeping us informed on the pro-

gress throughout the year or at least through the legislative session starting early January.

Our scholarship winners will be announced later this fall.

Finally on Saturday afternoon we had a roundtable discussion on MCF activities and possible ways to grow and better communicate with our clubs. Fundraising ideas were discussed and we felt it was necessary to increase dues this year. Dues will be \$2.00 per member with a maximum of \$250 for any club with 125 or more members. We are also encouraging clubs to host a Regional MCF Banquet similar to what Prior Lake and Lake City have been doing. Since we will not be doing the "Money Raffle" next year, it will be more important that we look to our local clubs to host one of the Regional Banquets. Let us help you in making it work! Our money raffle lost about \$600 this year so that is why we are dropping it.

Sunday morning we reconvened the Annual Assembly. Newly elected 2014-2015 officers were sworn in. Gary Botzek gave a legislative report and answered questions or concerns on the seven resolutions we passed.

Jason Dinsmore, Regional Rep from National Wildlife Federation, talked extensively about the vision of the new CEO, Collin O'Mara. Our efforts with local legislators are going to be more crucial than in the past. He feels that local clubs with their local representatives are more important than going to Washington, DC. Jason will help us with that as well.

I personally want to thank Tammy for setting up the Annual Assembly at Ruttgers. Also, a big thank you to Joe, Steve and Rylee for continuing to serve on the MCF Board.

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Executive Director News

Ex. Director Report and Legislative Update

By Gary Botzek
Executive Director



Where did the summer go? Thank God that fall is such a great season in Minnesota and you can actually begin to forget about the long hot summer.

MCF has been busy this summer and fall.

The legislative campaigns are deep in battle with elections on November 4. All 134 members of the Minnesota House are up for election, as is the Governor and all the constitutional officers. Add to that list the US Senate race and all eight Congressional races and we have a lot of ads on TV, a lot of money being raised and spent, and a lot at stake.

We just completed an interesting annual meeting in Deerwood, MN. We had a good turnout and a lot of deep discussion regarding policy issues and administrative matters.

Jason Dinsmore, regional representative of the National Wildlife Federation, updated us on the new leader of NWF, Collin O'Mara, as well as a number of program priorities that national is still involved in. According to Dinsmore, the NWF will continue to work on clean air and clean water, but as a backdrop for good hunting, good fishing, good habitat, and a cleaner environment.

We are looking for member clubs to host our quarterly meetings in March and June of 2015. We would love to come to your fair town/club and hear/see what your organization has been up to. If you provide the coffee and rolls and maybe a light lunch we will stay into the afternoon. We are hoping to add one or two more regional banquets to the two (Prior Lake, Lake City) we already

have scheduled for 2015. These events, while a lot of work, raise money for the local clubs and the MCF. If your club(s) are interested in hosting a fundraiser banquet let us know and we will work with you to set it up. We are dropping the money raffle after losing money on it this year.

At the annual meeting the MCF passed seven resolutions. They include:

Stronger Enforcement of Drainage Ditch Buffers: The MCF considered expanding the current state law for drainage ditch buffers from one rod (16 and 1/2 feet) on both sides of the ditch but settled on calling for stronger enforcement of current law by federal, state, and local governments. The resolution also suggests the use of native seed mixes as cover in order to minimize invasive species.

Better Public Awareness and Education of Minnesota's Ditch Mowing Policy to Protect Nesting Birds: The current law calls for no mowing of roadside ditches until after August 1 but that law is clearly being broken daily. The resolution also calls for stronger enforcement by counties and the state of the non-haying laws/dates in order to better protect our wildlife, birds, and bees.

Ban lead ammo to protect eagles and other birds: Concern over lead shot remaining in deer guts that eagles and other birds consume. With alternative shot readily available, now is the time to begin a transition to lead-free shooting.

Federal Wilderness Act expansion to include Alaskan Coastal Region. The heart of the Alaskan Arctic Refuge, 1.5 million acres, needs to be protected as wilderness in order to better protect the land for caribou, wolves, muskoxen, and millions of birds from all 50 states.

Allow for Pittman-Robertson funds to be used to establish, improve, and expand shooting ranges in Minnesota and other states. This change would provide for additional dollars for the new DNR shooting range grant program and would assist the State High School League clay target growth.

Support a DNR proposal submitted to the LCCMR for research dollars for testing the use of CO2 (dry ice) inserted under the ice in shallow lakes to control rough fish.

Full environmental review of the routing options of the proposed Sandpiper oil pipeline through northern Minnesota.

MCF will share these resolutions with all 201 members of the State Legislature. We expect to draft legislation around some of these resolutions.

The MCF can be expected to be involved in other natural resources funding and policy issues during the 2015 Legislative session. Those issues include budgets for state agencies, a possible bonding bill, wetland conservation act changes, drainage law reform, invasive carp control programs, AIS control programs, and many others!

Administrative Matters:

This past year MCF President John Brinkman and I visited a number of member sportsmen's clubs. We provided an update on the activities of the MCF including fund raising efforts and providing an update on legislative matters of interest and concern. We would like to visit more clubs and recruit additional new club members. Invite us to visit!

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More news....

2014 Money Raffle Money Raffle Winners \$1000.00

Donna Warren
Lake City, MN
Patty Ledewig
Frontenac, MN
Dan Swanson
Hamburg, MN
Cy Valerius
St. Cloud, MN

\$500.00

Amy Brinkman
Lake City, MN
Shirley Wieck
Lake City, MN
Powers Construction
Lake City, MN
Norm Kelzenberg
Spring Lake Park
Randy Kaiser
Jordan, MN
Fish Lake Sportsmen
Jordan, MN

Our thanks to the following Clubs for selling tickets!

Lake City, Fish Lake, Martin County, Fox Lake, New Brighton, United Northern, Wheatland-Twin Lakes, Belle Plaine, Prior Lake, Snake River, Holloway, Osseo and Tri-Lakes.

We will not be holding a Money Raffle in 2015!

Watch for regional banquets this spring in Prior Lake and Lake City!

President's Message continued.....

Thank you to all the clubs that sent people to the Assembly and for all that sold raffle tickets. Next years' Annual Assembly is being planned for the St. Cloud area.

Our next quarterly meeting will be December 13th in the Twin Cities area. Please consider hosting one of the quarterly meetings. Call Tammy for more information or to schedule a meeting. Quarterly meeting dates for 2014-2015 are December 13, 2014, March 14, and June 13, 2015. Remember, I love to travel.

And finally, a huge thank you to Rutgers Bay Lake Lodge for their great hospitality, exceptional service and great food.

Executive Director report continued.....

Sportsmen's Club dues are \$2 per member per year with a maximum of \$250 per club. Clubs are encouraged to donate additional funds to the lobbying effort or to sponsor our youth magazine in schools. Please give generously!

If you are interested in more information regarding items mentioned in this report, please call me at 651-293-9295 or email me at gary@capitolconnections.com. Thanks for your continued interest, involvement and participation in the MCF, NWF, conservation, habitat and the environment!




Give to the Max Day November 13, 2014

MCF is participating in Give to the Max Day on Thursday, November 13, 2014. This is your opportunity to give to the MCF in another way.

Visit givemn.org, click donate and type in Minnesota Conservation Federation to make a donation.

The holidays are right around the corner and what a great gift to give in honor of a friend or loved one then a donation to MCF.

You can make donations at any time; however....

If you give on November 13 (Give to the Max Day) we have a matching gifter that will match gifts up to the first \$200.00.

**MINNESOTA CONSERVATION
FEDERATION**

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***Minnesota Conservation Federation
2013-14 Officers***

John Brinkman, President
Joe Hoffmann, 1st Vice President
vacant, 2nd Vice President
Rylee Main, Treasurer
Steve Maurice, Secretary

**ANY ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION MAY BE E-MAILED
OR SENT TO THE MINNESOTA CONSERVATION
FEDERATION — info@mncf.org**

Quarterly Meeting



**December 13th
9:30am-1:30 pm**

December 13th Quarterly Meeting
will be held at Café Inc. located at
4940 West 77th Street Edina MN
55435. There phone number is: (952)
217-5825

Meeting will be from 9:30-1:30 pm

Join us for lunch at Red Savoy Pizza
after the meeting. Lunch is on your
own!



Submit your club's news to *Minnesota Out of Doors* Newsletter

The Minnesota Conservation Federation's *Minnesota Out of Doors* newsletter is a place for member clubs to present news about their accomplishments. Club news and/or photos can be submitted to: Tammy Abrahamson Minnesota Conservation Federation, 542 Snelling Avenue South #104, St. Paul, MN 55116, or by e-mail to info@mncf.org. All submissions should be directed to Tammy. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is December 19, 2014