



## MINNESOTA OUT OF DOORS

Volume 3, Number 3

Summer 2014

### A message from President John Brinkman

Since our last MOOD issue, like so many of you, I've been busy with outdoor activities.

Back on April 5th, Lake City Sportsman's Club hosted our 2nd Annual Sportsman's Night Out, which we call our MCF Regional Banquet and raised \$2,000 for MCF. This wasn't a large amount of money, but was great to have the chance to network with other clubs in our area and make some new acquaintances. Along these same lines, we will be also hosting the 3rd Annual Officer Schneider Memorial Scholarship Walleye Tournament with our friends to the North, Frontenac Sportsman's Club. It's always rewarding to see the cooperation from both clubs and the law enforcement community to make an event successful and foster new friendships.

May 1-3, 2014 was the 78th Annual Meeting of the National Wildlife Federation in Baltimore, Maryland. Our First Vice President, Joe Hoffman and I attended. The main purposes of the Annual Meeting was to elect some new officers and adopt resolutions for the upcoming year. This year was especially exciting because of the new CEO, Collin O'Mara was introduced. He is very young and very energetic. Some changes will be definitely happening at the NCF and will naturally trickle down to the state affiliates, us. Our Regional NWF representative, Jason Dinsmore, will be keeping us informed. At the convention, I served as the MCF delegate and Joe was the alternate. There were 7 Resolutions committees and I sat on the Habitat Committee with 11 others from around the country. We worked on 2 proposed resolutions, Commodity Agriculture-Driven Deforestation submitted by the Conservation Council of Hawaii and the New Hampshire Audubon and Large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in Special Resource Waters submitted by the Arkansas Wildlife Federation. Both of these resolutions were adopted by the final votes later in the convention along with 12 other resolutions. Much of the time at the convention was spend at getting to know the candidates and the attributes they will bring to the NWF. Joe and I enjoyed our stay in Baltimore.

On June 14th we held our Quarterly Board Meeting at Union Hill, Minnesota. NWF rep, Jason Dinsmore, talked about the upcoming Hike and Seek events scheduled

for September 20th at the Lebanon Hills Regional Park. MCF will again assist with the days event. He also reported on the Annual Convention and thanked Joe and I for attending. The dates are set for Prior Lake's Banquet on March 21st and Lake City's Banquet on April 11th, 2015. Gary Botzek's report about the legislative sessions is later in this newsletter. We also started putting together ideas and issues for resolutions for the Annual Assembly which will be September 13-14, 2014. Right now we have six proposed resolutions to work on and potentially adopt in September. If you have resolutions you'd like to submit, do so soon.

Our 62nd Annual Assembly is fast approaching, please, please, send someone from your club to represent you, your input is very valuable to us. I suggest for you to call someone from a neighboring club and bring them along to the Annual Assembly for the day or even both. I'll guarantee you'll both be happy you did, we can accomplish so much more with more people sitting around the table. MCF is doing our "Money Raffle", sell, sell, sell. Tickets are due back by the Annual Assembly. Call Tammy at the office (651-690-3077) for information on returning tickets or receiving more tickets.

And finally, our next meeting will be August 13th at 7:00 PM. Our monthly meetings are always the 2nd Wednesday of the month and our Quarterly Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of the month, September, December, March, and June. Your club can host one of these meetings if you wish, just let Tammy or I know well in advance. Don't hesitate to call me if your club has someone somewhat interested in getting more involved in these meetings, (651-380-7843). I'll meet with them over a cup of coffee or a beer or whatever it takes to assist your club. Let's work together in making MCF a greater organization for you to benefit from. Your participation is very valued and appreciated. Filling a slate of officers each year is more and more challenging, help us out if you can. THANKS Have a great rest of the summer and I hope to see and meet you at the Annual Assembly at Ruttger's!



*Executive Director News*

# Ex. Director Report and Legislative Update

By Gary Botzek  
*Executive Director*



The 2014 legislative session is in the books! A number of natural resources issues were dealt with during this past session. The following is a summary of what was addressed:

**Lessard-Sams Dedicated Sales Tax Dollars:** Legislation that contain the Lessard-Sams Council recommendations was passed and signed into law. The funding recommendations will provide \$109 million for habitat (WMA's), the Leech Lake Foundation for habitat improvements, AIS control programs, and many other conservation and environmental projects.

**Lottery Dollars:** Based on recommendations of the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources it contains \$29 million for 71 environmental/natural resource projects. Projects funded are generally research oriented and include AIS and Invasive Carp research. Special thanks to Dr. Bill Faber of Central Lakes College in Brainerd for serving on the LCCMR!

**Bonding Bill:** This bill includes \$63 million in bonds for the DNR plus \$15 million in general funds. Total dollars go to asset protection, trails acquisition and development, Vermillion State Park development, RIM Critical Habitat match, and other projects. The MPCA will receive \$2.6 million for their capital assistance program. BWSR will receive \$8 million of which \$6 million will be used for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program and \$2 million for local roads affected by wetland migration.

**Game & Fish Policy Bill:** This year's game & fish bill once again started out as a collection of policy items that DNR wanted to change. The bill ended up with more hunting and angling issues added by amendments in committee and on the floors of both bodies.

Included in the bill is our language authorizing the DNR to establish and run a trap shooting sports facility grant program. The new law will require

a 50% local match and will favor clubs that are open to the public and work with the local schools.

This was MCF's bill that was drafted based on a resolution passed at the annual meeting in September 2013. The resolution was created to inform people of the excellent work of Jim Sable and others surrounding the growth of shooting clays in high schools across the state. Sable is the "godfather" of the program and MCF saw the need to step forward and work for clear DNR authority and an increased state funding commitment to the program.

Also, in the bill, an old appropriation by the LCCMR was updated and redirected to this new shooting clay program. Specials thanks to Jeff Will of Jordan and Bill Feyo of Milaca who drove to St. Paul and testified in favor of the bill. Also, special thanks to Representatives Rick Hanson, David Dill, and Senator Tom Saxhaug for introducing our bill and working to get it into the final bills!

Two amendments were added to the bill that dealt with wolves. One amendment will double the restitution value for wolves (currently \$500) for people who have prior convictions for violating wolf hunting laws. The second amendment requires the DNR to compile and publish quarterly reports on known wolf deaths based on reporting by conservation officers.

Another issue that was addressed by amendment was the minimum size limit of muskies. The new limit will be 54 inches, up from the current 48 inches with some exceptions.

**Supplemental Budget Bill:** The legislature passed a bill that includes \$2 million from the game and fish fund for the shooting range grant bill.

**Wetland Protection, Migration:** The MCF testified a number of times in defense of our wetlands and the Wetlands Conservation Act. Bills had been introduced and hearings granted that would change the law and rules regarding wetland replacement due to mining activities. The big mining proposals for NE Minnesota call for the drainage of thousands of acres of wetlands with migration locations and placement yet to be resolved. A

number of conservation and environmental groups are working together in a Wetlands Coalition in an effort to protect and defend the Wetland Conservation Act. We strongly support the no-net-loss law of the state!

**Drainage Law Update:** Legislation was passed that updates the drainage law by adding priority language that requires that ditch proposal consider the environmental, land use, and multipurpose water management criteria. The legislation was developed by the Drainage Task Force of which the MCF is a member. The task force will meet this summer.

**AIS & Invasive Carp Matters:** The legislature provided new research money for AIS and carp control. In the tax bill, the legislature provided additional local aid dollars to counties to continue the fight against AIS movement through local public boat landing inspections. The bonding bill provides funds to update the St. Paul Campus lab for AIS and Carp research. The legislature also changed the name of the carp involved to "invasive carp."

As a member of the Stop Carp Coalition, the MCF assisted in securing language in federal bill that will close the St. Anthony Lock in Minneapolis within one year. Prior to 1965 when the lock and dam was built, there was a natural waterfall at the site and no fish moved north of that natural barrier. The MCF was asked by Senator Klobuchar's office to participate in a press conference announcing the final passage of the lock closure legislation. The closure of the lock will provide additional protection for our northern fishing lakes. We are working with the DNR on possible fish barriers on other locks and dams on the Mississippi River, as well as other control measures for the Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers.

**Session Summary:**

The 2014 legislative session was an excellent one for Minnesota's environment and natural resources. Increased funding, while very important, needs to include wise policy on the books and good administration of those laws and rules. The 2014 legislative session gets good grades in all three areas!

# More news....

## MCF Annual Meeting Suggested Resolutions:

At the last quarterly meeting in Union Hill we talked about drainage ditch buffering and ditch mowing. Both current laws need to be tightened up and enforced better. Here are my thoughts on those two issues and over resolutions to date:

Resolutions for Consideration at the MCF's 2014 Annual meeting:

1. Drainage Ditch buffers need to be expanded and enforced. Current law of one rod (16.5 feet) from each edge of the ditch is not enough protection for habitat and animals. Key is enforcement by someone? County? DNR? BWSR?
2. Ditch mowing restrictions to protect nesting and growing birds that use the ditches for nesting areas. Current law of no mowing until August 1 goes unenforced and baby and mature birds are killed yearly. Again enforcement is the key!
3. The Wilderness Act that protects the BWCA and VNP is 50 years old this year! We should ask our congressional delegation to become co-sponsors of the Wilderness Act Expansion Act to include the Alaskan Arctic Coastal areas. Big NWF and Alaskan Wilderness League effort underway.
4. Support federal legislation to allow states to use Pittman-Robertson funds to establish public shooting ranges (provision contained in the Sportsmen's Act of 2014/S.2363).
5. Changes to use of lead ammo in Minnesota or federal? Concerns over eagles dying after eating deer guts during fall hunting season.
6. Support DNR proposal submitted to the LCCMR for funding research on the use of carbon dioxide to control fish in shallow lakes.

Your reaction, input, and suggestions on these resolutions and others would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Gary Botzek:

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Email: [gary@capitolconnections.com](mailto:gary@capitolconnections.com)



*Annual Meeting  
September 13-14 2014  
Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge  
Deerwood, MN*

This meeting is your opportunity to get informed, network with other clubs/individuals from around the state and get involved!

Meeting will start at 9:00 am on  
Saturday, September 13th.

Come for the day and/or stay. Fill out registration form enclosed and mail to Ruttger's by August 22, 2014.



**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](mailto:info@mncf.org)**

**Thank you to the following  
clubs for your support!**

Ann Lake Watershed Alliance  
Becker County Sportsmen's Club  
Belle Plaine Sportsmans Club  
Bradford Sportsman's Club  
Bryon Sportsmen & Conservation Club  
Delano Sportsmens Club  
Fish Lake Sportsmen Club  
Fox Lake Conservation League  
Frontenac Sportsman Club  
Henderson Sportsmens Club, Inc.  
Holloway Rod & Gun Club  
Key Cities Conservation Club  
Lake City Sportsman's Club

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Tri Lakes Sportsman's Club  
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Clubs, Inc.  
Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
MN Chapter AFS (fisheries)  
Leech Lake Fishing Task Force  
Minnesota Game Breeders and Shooting  
Preserve

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

**T**he 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](mailto:info@mncf.org). All submissions should be directed to Tammy. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is September 19, 2014