



MINNESOTA OUT OF DOORS

Volume 3, Number 1

Winter 2014

A message from President John Brinkman

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to everyone. Before I begin thinking about New Year's resolutions, changes, goals, and perhaps where I want to be in 2014, I want to reflect on some happenings this fall. The fall season is always busy for everyone as we anticipate the coming of winter. I was able to find time for 4-wheeling with the "guys" in Northern Wisconsin for observing the beautiful fall colors. My wife and I spent a week traveling around Minnesota and Wisconsin "leafing" as well; The Taylor Falls/ St. Croix Falls area are beautiful areas to travel for fall colors, also around the Wisconsin Dells area. As so many others, the fall means hunting. I was able to do some bow hunting, turkey hunting, small game and pheasant hunting. The firearms first season was very productive and rewarding for me and my hunting buddy, he shot a Boone and Crockett whitetail deer, an 11-pointer, (green score of near 180). Jason Dinsmore of the NWF took me pheasant hunting, along with two of his NWF colleagues from Michigan. We traveled to the Marshall area to hunt some of the WMA's. Thanks Jason for arranging the trip – what a memorable time! If the weather permits I'd like to do some more bow hunting, maybe pheasant and squirrel hunting too. Lastly, let's not forget about the holiday season, my wife and I are excited about having Christmas with our first grandchild, her first Christmas, she is 7 months old now. Our daughters and son-in-law will be around for a few days as well during the holidays.

And now some important business in regards to MCF. Tammy, Gary, and I are still gathering information about your clubs (updating your contact info). We intend to visit as many clubs as time allows. We still need your help – send in the letter that was sent to your club providing us with this information. The second of six issues of the Walk on the Wildside went out this month, this is offered only on-line, so keeping gathering emails from all of your members that want it sent to them, that's true for our MOOD issues as well.

Our Quarterly Meeting was held at Gander Mountain in Lakeville on Saturday, December 14th. Despite the weather we had pretty good attendance. Don Pereira, Fisheries Chief, DNR was our guest speaker. Gary Botzek talked to the group about the happenings he involved with

right now. Jason Dinsmore of the NWF addressed the members about national issues and concerns. We talked about the Prior Lake fundraiser efforts, perhaps getting the 3 or 4 clubs together again this spring. There was a motion for the MCF board to check into hiring a CPA to keep our finances in order for the purpose of doing taxes each year – perhaps alleviate some of the "stress" for our treasurer.

As your MCF President, I will be attending the DNR Roundtable discussions January 10-11 in St. Paul. I will also be traveling to Indiana with Jason Dinsmore, January 27-29 for a Great Lakes pipeline concerns debate. On February 25-26, I'll be in Washington DC for a "Teaming with Wildlife" fly-in. Again, Jason with our First Vice-President Joe Hoffman will also be attending.

Two MCF fundraisers are already scheduled for 2014. The first one will be hosted by the Lake City Sportsman's Club on April 5th. We call it "Sportsman's Night Out". Tickets are \$20.00 each which includes a 10 oz, Ribeye steak dinner. This is our 2nd Annual event. We are asking all clubs to help in this effort by donating auctions items and/or door prizes. Feel free to contact me for pick-up or bring them to the March 8th meeting-call anytime 651-380-7843 or email Tammy at info@mncf.org

MCF will also be conducting the "Money Raffle" during the Annual Assembly in September. Tickets will be available and distributed at the March 8th Quarterly Meeting this year – way earlier than last spring, as some clubs don't meet as much during the summer months. I'm being very optimistic this year, I ordered 3500 tickets this year in hopes that with a little effort from EVERY club we can raise enough funds for accomplishing all we feel that is needed at MCF. With a strong effort from all clubs, perhaps this could be the ONLY fundraiser we would need – THANK YOU! Make it a goal for your Club to sell a minimum number of tickets this year. Everyone's efforts are and always greatly appreciated.

Good Luck with your New Year's resolutions and I hope to hear from all of you and hope to meet many of you in the next few months.



Executive Director News

Ex. Director Report and Legislative Update

By Gary Botzek
Executive Director



Happy New Year to you all! As John Lennon sang “another year over and another one just begun!”

2013 was a very interesting year for the country, the state, and for our natural resources. We experienced drought, floods, low water, high water, extremely hot days and bitterly cold days! Fishing was good and hunting was fair—depending on the fish or animal you went out after.

The 2013 legislative session was a good one in terms of investment in our natural resources; our lands, our waters, our forests, our prairies, our parks, and our trails. Due to improved budget conditions the state legislature was able to appropriate additional general fund dollars to the DNR, MPCA, and BWSR. After much discussion, debate, and a couple of line item vetoes by the Governor a very good Lessard-Sams bill was signed into law.

The new 2014 legislative session begins on February 25. However, hearings are already scheduled for January and more are expected to be held “in advance” of the regular session. With remodeling of the State Capitol and new parking restrictions in place it will be a bit more difficult for us policy guys who work the Hill, but we will be there until the third week in May.

Again with a nice budget surplus the legislature will be able to repay the K-12 schools the money they had to borrow from the system and still be able to invest more dollars in some programs and projects without raising taxes. We are expecting a big bonding bill, as well. Natural resources is expected to be a part of the bill that could reach close to \$1 Billion. Another Lessard-Sams bill is ready for legislative consideration and should invest another \$100 million into our natural resources. 2014 is an election year for the entire 134-member House of Representatives and Governor Dayton. The Senate has the “luxury” of four year dues

and gets a bye in the 2014 election.

The MCF can be expected to be involved in a number of natural resource and environmental issues in the 2014 session.

We expect to introduce a shooting range grant bill that would assist our shooting ranges in their needs for improvements and expansion of their ranges. We are securing authors and are looking for a new source of on-going revenue that could be collected by the state and appropriated to the DNR to be granted to shooting clubs open to the general public. Many clubs are growing due to the state high school league shooting team development that Jim Sable and others have been so successful at. The shootings ranges are used by city, county, and state law enforcement for training as well. Many clubs are in need of new buildings, improved or expanded parking lots and entrance roads, buffering, and other structural needs. The MCF is very supportive of expanding the current DNR run grant program to assist these clubs.

MCF will be involved in efforts to protect our wetlands. The big mining proposal for NE Minnesota calls for the drainage of thousands of acres of wetlands with migration location 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!

MCF will also be involved in policy matters and possible funding of AIS and Carp issues at the Capitol in 2014.

The DNR’s Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force that I serve on is expected to bring a report with policy and funding recommendations to the legislature in January.

The Asian Carp battle in Minnesota continues! As a member of the Stop Carp Coalition, the MCF provides a leadership role in the fight to stop the northerly movement of Asian Carp. We assisted in getting language in federal legislation that would provide a process to close the St. Anthony Lock in Minneapolis. 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 closure of the lock would better protect 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. The lock closure language is awaiting conference committee work in January.

Dr. Sorenson’s AIS Research efforts team at the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota are in place and working long and hard to come up with a control strategy. The MCF will assist in his efforts to secure bonding dollars for lab improvements.

The MCF has worked on the Federal Farm Bill. That bill remains in conference committee in Congress. There is language in the mix that would require conservation compliance in order for farmers to receive crop insurance. The battle is led by the National Wildlife Federation, PF, and other conservation groups.

MCF President Brinkman and I are visiting member sportsmen’s clubs this winter. We are traveling to provide an update on the activities of the MCF, including fund raising efforts, a new raffle, and legislative matters of interest and concern. We have met with a couple of clubs and expect to visit more in January-May. Let us know if you wish us to come and speak to your club.

A membership change that was made at the annual meeting caps the local sportsmen’s clubs dues at \$250. Club members pay \$1 per member per year. No club will have to pay over \$250 total. That change is reflected on the 2014 dues form that all clubs have received. 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!

More news....

Fish Cribs in Lake City



Currently Lake Pepin has 30 fish cribs in the water. The Lake City Sportsmens's Club (workers from the club in upper right and lower right photos) works with the DNR on this project. Bob Packman (center picture) chairs this project for the club.



Quarter Meeting March 8-10:15 am Prior Lake Library

The Quarterly Meeting of the Minnesota Conservation Federation will be held on March 8, 2014 at the Prior Lake Library. The library is located at 16210 Eagle Creek Ave. SE Prior Lake, MN

Meeting will start at 10:15 am.
We hope you can join us.

MCF Seeking to fill 1 board position: Second Vice President.....

Would you be interested in serving on the executive board, which meets monthly at MCF office on a Wednesday night starting at 7PM with a call in phone number of people unable to attend meetings in person.

Would you be interested in serving on the bigger general membership board? The full board assists in membership recruitment and retention in a regional coverage approach.

If you are interested in serving conservation and the environment issues and projects in Minnesota here is a way to do so!

If interested please contact Gary Botzek at 651-293-9295 or email at gary@capitolconnections.com

**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**

**Sportsman's Night Out,
Saturday, April 5th, 2014
Social Hour 5:00 pm; Dinner at 7:00 pm
Lake City Sportsman's Club, Lake City**

Tickets are \$20.00 each and includes a delicious grilled Ribeye steak dinner, chances to win door prizes, raffles, live and silent auctions, etc. Only 250 tickets sold. Proceeds from the auctions are donated to MCF. Call or email President John Brinkman for information and/or tickets. 651-380-7843 or brinkman.john@hotmail.com

2014 Club membership renewals are due, has your club submitted their renewal yet. If not, you can find a club renewal form on our website at www.mncf.org, look under the Become a member/ Find a Club tab for the form or you can contact the office at 651-690-3077 or email at info@mncf.org.

**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 20th.