

THE LEADER-NEWS

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NORDAK NORTH PUBLICATIONS



Our Outdoors

Spring Cleaning

BY NICK SIMONSON
COLUMNIST

Last week's warmth brought with it what I can only hope is the final melt of the season, despite knowing that Mother Nature always has a few wintery tricks up her sleeves, even well into May. For that reason, the Minnesota fishing opener always serves as the "safe point" on my calendar for running the snowblower dry and putting it away in exchange for the lawn mower. But in what I envisioned was Teddy Roosevelt style, while working through the end of what I also hope is also my final head cold of the season, a vicious double-lunger with body aches and balloon-head congestion, I managed several walks around the neighborhood to get my body right through TR's Strenuous Life plan. While I wasn't running, as I wanted to be in the calm early mornings, or fishing, as I longed to be in the 70 degree highs of the afternoons, I found solace in picking up a couple plastic bags worth of cans, cardboard and other debris that had blown around in the northwest winds which winter had sent down the hill and into my favorite walking trails in the ravine near our house. With the energy I had, the impromptu cleanup effort felt like a good workout with an even better payoff for the aesthetics of the area and



SUBMITTED PHOTO | NICK SIMONSON

Clean Corners. Small flows lead to bigger waters, and removing trash upstream improves things downstream. Little spring efforts like litter cleanup go a long way in improving angling, hunting, and overall aesthetics of outdoor spaces.

likely prevented those items from making their way into the creek, and ultimately the river downstream, following spring's first good rain. Spring's arrival is always a reminder that trash is trash everywhere; and in opposition to Taylor Swift's theory, it doesn't always take itself out. Instead, it falls on citizen conservationists, hunters and

anglers to keep a wary eye out as their favorite spots open for spring activities help in that process. Those river bends that hold prespawn walleyes also tend to bunker the discarded Styrofoam blocks and aluminum cans in the dry grasses on their shores. Up

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The Peluso Report

Ramped Up

BY MIKE PELUSO
COLUMNIST

It has been an awesome week for walleyes out here in Bismarck North Dakota getting back on the Missouri River fishing the open water again!

Warm weather helped melt some ice and dried some stuff out a little. We also saw some boat ramps open up and even a couple of the ramps put docks in making it easier to load and unload.

During the early portion of last week there were only two ramps open and with 70 degree temperatures it made for a couple really busy boat landings. As of now almost all the public ramps near Bismarck are open.

Unfortunately, the most popular boat landing near the Interstate bridge has been taken away. This has definitely left a huge void for getting on the water. Plus, it was probably the best ramp for ease of launching with it laying north and south. So if you want to put your boat in the water in Bismarck the only option you have is Fox Island.

The walleye bite has been solid and it is common to see a decent bite right after ice out. We will, however, experience a slowdown of sorts. Lots of the fish being caught



SUBMITTED PHOTO | MIKE PELUSO

Local Luncker. Anglers are finding walleyes that wintered in the Bismarck area waters of the Missouri River and awaiting a spawning surge from the head of Lake Oahe as the flow warms. DEO Photo by Mike Peluso.

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