

"Bugs so Big You Can't Swat 'Em"

Mike Martin
The Enderlin Lions Club had a productive and fun Tuesday, April 28. At 4:30 p.m. Club members started their bi-annual policing of 3 miles of Highway 46 ditch. Besides the old school approach of boots, bags and stoop, Lions Gene Johnson, Dean Torbenson and Dennis and Scott Lokken brought mechanization to the field and side by sides re-enforced those walking. In all, 10 Lions finished the cleanup. At 6 p.m. between Enderlin's downtown flood levee and PGA's condo bins, alongside Railway Street, Heuer Agri Drone Services showcased their latest farm service. Electronic powered rotor drones were assembled and launched for the Club to see. Leonard, N.D. owner/operators Matt (father) and Eleanor (daughter) are old hands at set up and the two drones, about the size of a golf cart without the canopy, were soon flying. The Heuers had a framed-up goose neck trailer as the transport/landing field and its appearance was an aircraft

carrier, circa 1928. Both use high-tech batteries whose working time is not even 10 minutes, but the water and chemical mix is depleted before the battery quits. Eleanor ran the display and controls, and a drone was soon doing laps on an empty lot. While spraying, a 10' height is optimum and a 30' coverage is standard. Ground speed, depending on the drone model, is in that 25-30 mph range. The service can polish off 160 acres in less than several hours. Two generators make certain charged batteries are always ready and the service is a high-speed balancing act of water/chemical mix, fresh batteries and managing the application with Google Earth maps. The drones use "co-axial rotors" (multiple rotors stacked



above each other) and the spray is forced through rotary nozzles. Their country of origin is Asia. Seeing this high-tech tool zoom up and down Enderlin is seeing the biggest bug of your life. There is not much noise-a steady "Brrrrr"-but there is a flurry of spinning parts. All work toward a marvel of efficiency and amazement. The drones can climb to 300' which is point-less as the spray pattern is ruined. This business is highly permitted and regulated. The Heuers have increasing competition in the state and what they offer is another tool in the farmer's toolbox, with a cost comparable to conventional airplanes. The Enderlin Lions immensely enjoyed a glimpse of the future.

Anglers & Boaters Should be ANS Aware this Spring

By Nick Simonson
This spring, as ice peels back from area lakes and rivers and angling and boating opportunities begin to open up, members of the North Dakota Game & Fish Department (NDG&F) are enlisting the help of those using watercraft of all sorts to help the agency prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) in the state. With the annual NDG&F ANS awareness week set for May 3 through May 9, it's a good time for all users of North Dakota's lakes and rivers to take stock of ANS in the region and do those things they can to help stop the spread of species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil, and others which impact fishing, water usage, and downstream interests such as municipal water systems, according to Ben Holen, NDG&F ANS Coordinator. "The key thing regardless of if it's an infested lake or not is that people should be taking steps to mitigate ANS concerns each and every time they go out and recreate on

their local water body," Holen advises, "the simplest thing is to follow our regulations, making sure you clean, drain and dry every single time, making sure that there's no mud, aquatic vegetation, or plants or animals left on your boat when you're done recreating," he concludes, adding that seven days of drying time helps prevent species from moving between water bodies. In 2025, North Dakota did see some spread of ANS, with notable detections of zebra mussels occurring in the northwestern corner of the state at Smishek Lake. Additionally, the expansion of Eurasian water milfoil in the Missouri River system was detected last year. In light of these events, the NDG&F is calling on anglers and boaters to be vigilant this season in their water use, report any occurrences or suspected infestation of ANS in their waters, and most importantly, clean, drain and dry their watercraft before each launching to prevent the spread of these species to major waters such as Lake Sakakwea and Devils Lake, both of which have no detected zebra mussel populations at this time. "This past year we have several new infestations around the state," Holen prefaces, adding, "we had a zebra mussel expansion in the northwest part of North Dakota. Before that, mussels were only located in the eastern portion of North Dakota, so mussels were discovered at Smishek lake, and that's something people up in the northwest should be aware of." In addition to the headline-grabbing species such as zebra mussels, the NDG&F is hop-

ing the awareness week will help the public identify and work toward halting other invasive species that are lesser known, but no less troublesome for area waters should they gain a foothold in North Dakota. Those to be on watch for, especially as they're just over the border in states like Minnesota and South Dakota, are Chinese and Japanese mystery snails and starry stonewort. NDG&F continues its plan in 2026 to deploy more inspectors at boat launches to help anglers detect all invasive species and prevent their spread into local lakes and flows. "Every year we try to bolster our watercraft inspection program so we're specifically targeting areas of high traffic and high risk. We're getting out there and educating boaters about clean, drain, dry, and also finding potential fouled boats and then dealing with them when they come. We raise ANS awareness through a bunch of different education campaigns. Here in North Dakota, we're constantly monitoring water bodies. Last year we monitored over 180 water bodies for ANS, that basically will help us determine and notify the public early on these infestations so they can take proper steps before going to their water body and make sure they're aware of what's out there," Holen details of the agency's efforts. More information on ANS awareness week, invasive species and infested waters, and more importantly, what anglers and boaters can do to keep them at bay from North Dakota waters, can be found on the NDG&F website at gf.nd.gov/ans.

Fish Challenge Now Open

Anglers are invited to participate in the fifth annual North Dakota Fish Challenge. The challenges encourage exploration of North Dakota's many fisheries, and this year promote the joy of just catching a fish, no matter the size or species, with the newly added 100 Fish Challenge. To complete the challenge, just catch 100 fish of any kind. In addition, anglers can complete the Total Catch Challenge by coaching a new angler, cleaning up a local waterbody, cooking a catch, and casting a story; the

Rough Fish Challenge by catching a bullhead, carp and sucker; the Sportfish Challenge, by catching a bluegill, walleye, bass and trout; or the inaugural Classic Challenge, requiring a northern pike, yellow perch, small-mouth bass and channel catfish. Either way, the process is simple - snap a photo of each and submit your entry on the North Dakota Game and Fish website now through Aug. 15. Anglers who complete a challenge will receive a decal and certificate.



Above: Aquatic Nuisance Species, Zebra Mussels

Good Supper, Good Business and Good Fellowship

Mike Martin
27 Lions and guests met at the Traxside café Tuesday, April 28. The meeting began at 7 p.m. following the Club's policing 3 miles of Highway 46 ditches and an hour program and demonstration of aerial drone spraying. Club President Karlton Stordalen called the meeting to order. Jan Victor, Rudy Strydom, and Matt and Eleanor Heuer were welcomed and introduced by the President. There were several additions to the written agenda and all stood for the Pledge Allegiance, with Lion Tom Farnham holding Ol' Glory for the Club to see. All sang "Be Present at our Table Lord" and supper followed. Following the meal, President Stordalen thanked Matt and Eleanor Heuer for this afternoon's drone demonstration and additional questions were asked with the Heuers supplying the answers. A Lions monthly business meeting unfolded, and Treasurer Farnham circulated written financial reports. Following discussion, Lion Mike Martin moved and Lion Gary Daub seconded for approval; report approved by voice vote. The Club's March membership meeting minutes had been published in the Enderlin Independent, and the April board meeting minutes had been mailed to all members. Lion Bob Gruman moved and Lion Farnham seconded for formal approval of the minutes and another voice vote

approved. For old business, the group was told the Club has \$800 reserved for sending kids to the annual Lions Youth Camp. Kids between 12 and 17 are eligible and it will be held in Canada once again. Lion Dean Torbenson also summarized today's Highway 46 ditch policing with "the project is done and we had good turnout." Secretary Martin said our 3-year DOT contract needs to be once again approved. Lion Susan Dopp moved for a 3-year extension and Lion Terry Taylor seconded; the contract was approved. Lion Martin said our pending Enderlin CDC tree planting grant awaits City approval for the tree choice. The last old business was Lion Torbenson reporting we had several local cash winners in the recent 5NE raffle. For new business, Lion Roxy Johnson said the Club is once again providing flowers for all women MaryHill Manor residents. The Club will also provide Dad's root beer for the men come Father's Day. Meals on Wheels slots were filled: May 5 Charlie Russell, May 12 Andrew Peterson, May 19 Tom Farnham, May 26 Bob Gruman June 2 Jasmin Kasin. Final new business had Tent Meister Torbenson saying the Club has 4 tent rentals on the books for the 2026 rental season and the first engagement is June 6. Concluding traditions had guest Jan Victor drawing Lion Keith Brandt as the meeting's 50-50 winner. \$33 was the pot. Selected electronically for the dime drawing, was Lion Dean Torbenson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Brad's Bites: Ready, Set...

Brad Durick
Here we are in 2026 and already catfishing on the Red River. It feels like this spring is taking forever, yet it is still very early for catfishing. I guess the past two years have spoiled us with warmer, stable starts to the season. With only an outing to go on for this report, I can relay that the conditions of the Red River in and around Grand Forks are good. Water levels are stable and very fishable both from boat and shore. Water temperatures are in the low 50s and currently holding to falling, but relief should be here on the weekend to turn that around. Catfish are biting but are very lethargic with the cool water temps and consistently cool days and cold nights. The best fishing is out of the current and off the first drop off to the

channel. For shore anglers, this is typically a 15-to-20-yard cast to get over from the bank. Sit on the spots for 25 to 45 minutes to let the fish find the bait. If you get in the right spot, you will see many bites and eventually a hook up. The fish are right on the edge of taking off. I have done this a long time, and they just need a little heat to put them in the mood, then hang on! I have not tried a variety of baits yet, but it appears that everything is getting interest. If you're looking to connect with a trophy catfish, my season starts soon, and I am currently taking bookings beginning May 10 and on through the summer. Brad Durick is a Dakota Edge Outdoors contributing writer and a licensed ND fishing guide specializing in trophy catfish on the Red River in and around the Grand Forks area.



Featured Photo: Almost Go Time! With cool waters to start the season, catfish are a bit sluggish, but longer sit times will produce good fish, and the action should heat up as the water warms. DEO Photo by Brad Durick.

2026 North Dakota Agriculture Photo Contest announced

BISMARCK - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring announces the opening of the 2026 North Dakota Agriculture Photo Contest. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) is accepting agriculture-related photos in several categories. The contest is open to North Dakota residents of all ages. "The contest will help share the story of agriculture through photographs," Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said. "I invite photographers to submit their best images of North Dakota agriculture, which will be judged on creativity and photo composition."



Winning photographs will be displayed at the North Dakota Department of Agriculture in the state Capitol and will appear in the next North Dakota Agriculture magazine. They may also be used in the department's content. Photo categories and full contest details may be found at www.ndda.nd.gov/2026photocontest and submissions are due by Friday, Oct. 30, 2026. Questions may be directed to Public Information Officer Michelle Mielke at 701-328-2233 or mmielke@nd.gov.

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