

Mixed Bag

DNR TO BOATERS: AVOID UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS DAM

Minneapolis — Mississippi River boaters and paddlers are reminded that as of June 10, the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock in downtown Minneapolis is permanently closed. Boaters and paddlers should avoid approaching the area from upstream, according to the Minnesota DNR. The lock closure will create a barrier against the spread of invasive carp in the Mississippi River watershed. However, the closure will affect navigation routes and safety conditions above Upper St. Anthony Falls and dam.

In light of these changed conditions, boaters and paddlers should avoid approaching the lock, dam and falls area from upstream. Due to strong currents above the upper falls and dam, paddlers especially need to avoid the area and should go no further downstream than Flagpole Plaza, just upstream of the Hennepin Avenue Bridge on the river's west bank.

In addition to the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock closure, boaters and paddlers should be aware that starting June 10, the Lower St. Anthony Falls lock and Lock and Dam 1 will operate on a reduced schedule, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

MINNESOTA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT IS JULY 13

Hopkins, Minn. — The Minnesota Waterfowl Association is holding its third annual MWA Charity Golf Tournament on July 13 at the New Prague Golf Club.

The cost is \$100 per player, or \$380 if players sign up as a foursome. The event is a scramble and begins with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The entry fee includes a dinner following the tournament. The event is open to anyone — you don't need to be an MWA member to attend. For more information, go to MWA's website — www.mnwaterfowl.com — or call Andy Fondrick, MWA development coordinator, at (952) 767-0320.

NEWEST STATE RECORD FISH CAUGHT IN ROOT RIVER

St. Paul — May 8 is turning into a red-letter date for angler Chad Wentzel. Last year on that day, Wentzel landed the state record golden redbreast. A year later to the day, on the bank of the Root River in Fillmore County, he broke his own state record by one ounce.

The Minneapolis resident used 8-pound test line and worms as bait. He left the rig on the bottom to catch a 4-pound, 1-ounce golden redbreast that the Minnesota DNR has confirmed as a new state record.



Chad Wentzel, of Minneapolis, caught this golden redbreast May 9.

Photo courtesy of Minnesota DNR

"Wentzel fishes with a group of fellow anglers who target all sorts of fish beyond walleye, bass and panfish," said Mike Kurre, who coordinates the DNR state record fish program. "Indeed, there are many types of fish to catch in Minnesota. We keep state records on five types of redbreast alone, and in all there are state records for 62 species of fish."

DNR: ROADSIDES ARE IMPORTANT PHEASANT AND POLLINATOR HABITAT

St. Paul — People who own or manage land along Minnesota roads and highways are urged to delay roadside mowing until the beginning of August, according to the Minnesota DNR.

"A quarter to a third of all the pheasants in the state are hatched in roadsides," said Nicole Davros, DNR upland game project leader. "Roadsides provide more than 500,000 acres of nesting and chick-rearing habitat in southern and western Minnesota."

This year, pheasants will be hatching mostly in early to mid-June. Chicks need at least two to three weeks to have any chance of escape from mowers. While mowing can delay or prevent nesting, so can other disturbances including burning, tilling, grazing and spraying herbicides.

STATE GAME COMMISSION REJECTS CHANGES TO WATERFOWL LICENSES

Pierre, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has rejected nearly all proposed changes aimed at expanding South Dakota's nonresident waterfowl license system.

The commission was considering 15 changes to its nonresident license system. The changes included adding another nonresident waterfowl hunting unit to the six already in the state and adding 100 youth licenses. The changes were brought forward by a work group created at the direction of the state Legislature last year to study the issue, which has been contentious for decades.

Resident duck and goose hunters have pushed to keep more nonresident hunters out of South Dakota's dwindling wetlands.

Proponents of the changes argued more nonresident hunters means more money for local businesses.

BRP EVINRUDE TO TEST RIDE EVINRUDE E-TEC G2 ENGINE AT LEECH LAKE

Walker, Minn. — Evinrude will debut the new Evinrude E-TEC G2 engine during free test rides at the National Walleye Tournament on Leech Lake. The test rides will take place at Walker City Park on June 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To learn more, visit www.Evinrudetestrides.com

Roosevelt IV advocates for BWCA

By Javier Serna
Assistant Editor

Minneapolis — Theodore Roosevelt IV, the great grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt, advocated for legislation that would protect both the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park by ending mining on federal lands inside the Superior National Forest at a luncheon held at Phoenix on the River last week.

In 1909, President Roosevelt, who is best known for his conservation legacy, established the Superior National Forest, from which the BWCAW was later taken.

Roosevelt IV, managing director in investment banking at Barclays, spoke at a function put on by Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters, a nonprofit group of conservation interests whose partners include The Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota-based Wildlife Forever, National Wildlife Federation, Minnesota Conservation Alliance, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, and the American Fly Fishing Trade Association. The group is led by Ely-based Boundary Waters Trust.

"We're very concerned," said Douglas Grann, president of Wildlife Forever. "We want to do all we can to protect the Boundary Waters."

Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the Washington-based National Wildlife Federation, said the group is not opposed to mining, in general. The group is just opposed to mining being done inside the watershed that is

shared with the popular wilderness area. He said the notion that some mining supporters have said that mining should be allowed in the name of economic development is shortsighted.

"There are 18,000 people whose jobs would be at risk if the Boundary Waters are allowed to be ruined for a few hundred short-term mining jobs," O'Mara said.

O'Mara said the NWF joined the movement because the BWCAW is a national treasure.

"This isn't a local fight," O'Mara said. "This is a national issue. But every Minnesotan that cares about hunting and fishing needs to tell their representative that the Boundary Waters are too important to put at risk."

Roosevelt IV, in an interview with *Outdoor News*, echoed O'Mara. He said allowing mining inside the watershed would destroy the Boundary Waters.

"We would be trading a lot of jobs for a small number of jobs," he said. "This would be permanent damage for a very short-term gain."

Roosevelt IV and the group are advocating for changes in policy that would prevent future min-

ing permits from being granted inside the Superior National Forest, just to the south of the BWCAW. Within the drainage area there are currently federal lands with 50-year-old mining leases, according to a letter penned by U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, DFL-Minn. McCollum said these leases are currently held by one of the largest foreign copper mining companies in the world, Antofagasta.

McCollum has authored a bill — supported by the Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters — that is intended to prevent mining-related pollution from flowing into both the BWCAW and Voyageurs National Park. The bill would permanently withdraw federal lands in the Rainy River Drainage Basin from the federal mineral leasing program.

"The nation is judicious and preserves its natural beauty for future generations," Roosevelt IV said. "Americans don't want to see an industrial wasteland. ... We want clean air and clean water. It should be something we bequeath."

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