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NDWCA NEWSLETTER

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June 2009

NDWCA President's Report.....

Greetings and best wishes to all of you weed warriors! It has been a cold and wet spring in many parts of North Dakota and although it may not seem like it, the annual spraying season is upon us. It is important that the weeds be controlled, but it is more important that all those involved in weed control use safe methods in their efforts battling weeds.

For those of us involved in weed control, it looks like we have a job for as long as we want. With all the different noxious weeds across North Dakota, weed control personnel are guaranteed employment.

While cold and windy days can be very discouraging in the fight against noxious weeds, those of us involved must keep on battling. We may not win every battle, but if we all work together, we can keep those pesky weeds under control.

August 11th, 12th and 13th are the dates for the third annual Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium. This symposium will again be held in Washburn, ND and is a good opportunity to greatly increase your noxious weed management knowledge. This symposium is open to weed board members, land managers, weed control personnel and any agency personnel involved in fighting weeds.

The next paragraph will sound familiar because it is!!! In the March 2009 President's Report I asked for suggestions on how we can get more traffic and sales for the vendors at our annual convention. Your board did not get any responses!

Many vendors feel that they are not getting enough traffic to justify the cost of having the displays. Some vendors suggested that they be allowed some time on the program. Your board of directors welcomes any ideas and suggestion that you may have. If anyone has an idea for a speaker or topic at our annual convention,

please let any board member know. We will try to accommodate your wishes.

Bruce Fagerholt
2009 NDWCA President

THISTLE WORKSHOPS



So this is what it looks like! A gall created by the gall fly larva. (Photo/article contributed by Blake)

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture will be co-hosting a Thistle Workshop with the Stutsman County Weed Board on **June 23rd** and a second one in Jamestown with the Stark County Weed Board on **June 30th** in Dickinson. The workshops will begin at 10:00 A.M. (local time) and end at noon.

The events will consist of speakers from the NDDA, NDSU and chemical representatives that will focus on the integrated control of Canada thistle using herbicides, biocontrol and how to identify various thistle species.

At each event, 50 releases consisting of 200 adult thistle gall flies (*Urophora cardui*) will be given away

for land managers to release on land unsuitable for herbicide applications. Refreshments will be served.

NOTES FROM SHAUNA

You'd swear spring was playing hide and seek with us! I hope everyone is having a safe spray season, should you have had the opportunity to get out and start the annual weed war.

This year the NDWCA had two sprayer schools, one in Minot and the other in Bismarck. There was excellent attendance at both. Breaks were sponsored by CPS and Van Diest Supply Company and lunch was sponsored by the ND Department of Agriculture. It was a great learning opportunity for everyone who attended.

The NDWCA's next project is our weed symposium in August. Beginning Tuesday, **August 11th at 1:00 p.m.** and running through Thursday, **August 13th at noon.** It will be held at the Washburn 4-H camp again and the cook is booked! We also have several amazing speakers lined up from around the states as well as Canada to wow us with their knowledge and weed control experiences.

Registrations have been mailed out, make sure you fill them out and get them in. Don't wait to sign up as spots are limited!

We have also set up a training/overview with Vince Thomas from Red's Fixit and Jim Hanson from the Department of Ag. for Thursday, **August 13th at 1:00 pm** after the symposium at the Washburn 4-H camp. This will be for weed officers as well as weed boards around the state. This is a prime time for a refresher as weed boards will be right in the heat of marking weeds and uploading to the state. If there are any problems, Vince and Mark will be right there to help.

The NDWCA is also working on a weed calendar for next year to be completed this year. Keep our eyes open for some amazing weed photo opportunities while you are out spraying and mapping in your county. If you see a state noxious weed striking a pose, make sure you get it on film and send to Dan Dew in Renville County. We always hear weed infestation horror stories, now's the chance to prove it and put your county on the calendar!

Don't forget, we have some awesome promotional items for sale. Coffee mugs and

cards are a must for summer activities. Our can coolies will keep your beverages cold.

For all your promotional needs, contact Stan Wolf or myself and we will make sure to get you set up with all the promotional items needed.

That's all I have for you and I hope to see you in the fall. Good luck to all you weed whackers!!

Shauna Berg
Cavalier County Weed Officer
NDWCA Education Committee Chairperson

LAP/TAG DEADLINES

County and city weed boards receiving Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) or Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) funds from the NDDA should submit reimbursement requests **by June 30, 2009**, the end of the state fiscal year. **Contact Rachel Seifert-Spilde** at (701) 328-2983 or 1- 800 - 242-7535 with questions.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

First of all, I would like to thank the board for appointing me your lobbyist this past session. The session was a busy one. I worked on more bills than I have for a number of sessions.

As many of you know, we did get a weed free forage bill passed, but we could not get the gravel portion of that bill passed. We do have a new noxious weed law in place to take effect in August. You, as weed control folks, will see little changes in the law portion, but you will see significant changes in the funding portion. Hopefully, it will enhance your programs. The noxious weed budget in the Ag Dept passed virtually unchanged. Towards the end of the session, we welcomed a **new Ag Commissioner Doug Goehring** and said goodbye to Roger Johnson. This proved interesting in the legislative process, with the Dept switching political parties. I have never seen that happen, but in the end it all worked out as far as funding for noxious weeds are concerned. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. Thank you and have a great spraying season.

UPDATE LAPTOPS WITH ANTI-VIRUS DISC NOW

Anyone with a laptop that their county or city received via a grant agreement with the Ag. Department should have received an anti-virus disc from NRG Tech Services recently along with instructions. Before you install this disc, please back up your information you have stored so nothing is lost in this process.

If you encounter problems or do not understand what to do with the disc, **call 1-888-303-0094**. You will get a menu (not a live person). Choose option #1 and continue. What this does is it generates a work order so the time spent by NRG can be tracked.

Anytime you are having problems with your computer, please call the toll free number. If you end up waiting and leaving a message, mention that you are with a weed board and when they should return the call (time and date). If you would rather communicate via e-mail, contact: support@nrgtechservice.com

Remember, the service has been paid for so your county/city weed board does not pay for these support services.

If, at any time you are experiencing trouble with the computer and NRG works on it, and it is discovered there is an equipment failure, (example- power cord, hard drive, etc.) you will be billed for replacement parts cost up to \$250.00. If NRG examines it and determines something needs to be replaced, which is more expensive, the North Dakota Weed Control Association Coordinator and the North Dakota Agriculture Department will decide what to do with the computer. In no situation will you be billed for time.

If you have any questions or problems, please call me at 701-626-7470. We have call waiting and caller ID but no answering machine. If you get a busy signal, someone is on a computer. I look at the caller ID and return calls off of that. Please have patience and try more than once at anytime between 6:00am and 10:30pm, because we do have a diversified farming operation.

Area Directors: Please do the installation on your computer and after you have completed this process and know how it works, please contact all the computer holders in your area to see that they have completed the process with theirs also.

The only counties that don't have a computer are Burleigh, Emmons, McLean, Mercer, and Ramsey. Remember, the City of Devils Lake does have a computer.

Thank you area directors for your work in seeing that the counties/city in your areas get their computers serviced.

NRG normally has only so long until they need to respond to a service request. For this project, where potentially 49 service requests could come in at one time, the North Dakota Weed Control Association has waived this requirement. Please allow some time for this service.

Myron Dieterle
ND Weed Control Association-
NRG Technology Services Coordinator
661 22nd St NE
Kief, ND 58723
701-626-7470

TIDBITS... ..

Dickey County has a new weed officer. Welcome aboard **Curtis Coy!**

Who said this?

"If we could genetically cross alfalfa with leafy spurge, to make a forage crop, cattle ranchers would no longer have to worry about feed. And if we were smart enough to do it, the royalties from this would allow us to retire!"

Think about that! It could become a convention door prize question!

ADDRESS CHANGES

If you have not yet updated the NDWCA address change in your files, please do so. **THE OFFICIAL ADDRESS IS: NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION, 3196 119TH AVE SE, VALLEY CITY, ND 58072-9418.** The Langdon address has been changed so eventually the Post Office will return your correspondence. Let this be a reminder to those who may have changed names, mailing addresses, e-mails and/or phone numbers to please let us know so that we, too, can update our files. Thank you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS @ Seven Seas Inn, Mandan
Tuesday, June 23rd @ 9am
Tuesday, September 29th @9am
Monday, January 11, 2010 @ 7pm