

*BOD Meetings
Seven Seas Inn, Mandan, ND
June 28 & Sept 27 @ 9am
January 9, 2012 @ 7pm*

2011 President: Dan Folske 701-377-2927
2011 1st VP: Gary Hartman 701-222-6763
2011 2nd VP: Stan Wolf 701-298-2388
Exec. Secretary: Becky Schroeder 701-570-3545

NDWCA NEWSLETTER

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ND WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to all who attended the 2011 annual weed conference. Your interest and participation in each of the presentations helped make a successful conference.

Some of you may not have heard the news and are surprised to see my name at the bottom of this report. Our duly elected 2011 President Roger Wickstrom is no longer employed by the Bowman County Weed Board and, as such, is no longer eligible to serve as an officer in our organization.

As per our by-laws, I have assumed the duties of the President to fill the balance of Roger's term. Gary Hartman has assumed the duties of the 1st VP and the Board of Directors has appointed Stan Wolf to fill the 2nd VP roll until the 2012 Annual Meeting at which time Gary and I will begin our elected terms as President and 1st VP and the membership will elect a 2nd VP according to our standard practice and by-laws.

I would like to thank Merlin for his efforts during this legislative session along with those members who testified at the hearings and the legislators who carried HB 1317 to modify the ND Weed Law to a more workable format.

I'd also like to thank Stan Wolf for continuing to follow and work on the NPDES issue. Like many of you I'm happy to see the EPA received a delay in the permitting process and hope that HR 872 makes its way through the senate to provide a more permanent solution to the problem. I'd also like to thank Dan Dew for his commitment to giving us a national voice as part of the Healthy Habitat Coalition. Make sure you read his report in this newsletter.

I'm excited to report that the new Dupont product *Perspective* has received state registration and can now be included in our weed fighting arsenal. While its use will be limited this year because the haying, grazing portions of the EPA registration requirements have not been completed and you cannot use it in any location which may be hayed or grazed this year, there are locations which we know will not be hayed or grazed and we can give the product a try. As with any herbicide, make

sure you read and understand the label and use the product accordingly.

May your upcoming spraying season be blessed with low winds and great weed control.

*Dan Folske
2011 NDWCA President*

Legislative Report

by Merlin Leithold, Association Lobbyist

This legislative session has been quite interesting. As of this writing, numerous bills are still in limbo. If a bill is amended on the opposite side of its where it was introduced, it then needs to go to a conference committee, made up of members from both the House and Senate. It sounds like Friday, April 1st, this process will begin.

SB 2085, which dealt with adding to the weed law, prohibiting the sale of noxious weeds in the state, is one such bill. A part of the bill, allowing the AG Commissioner more flexibility with adding or removing a weed from the state noxious weed list was gutted from the bill. So we will see how it turns out in conference.

Our bill, HB 1317, dealing with in kind cost share and dealing with who to contact with a failure to control situation, passed the House and today it has passed the Senate. It now goes to the Governor for his signature. This bill carries an emergency declaration on it, meaning it becomes law when the Governor signs the bill. Feel free to contact me if you have questions. My e-mail is leithold@westriv.com

Reminder: On behalf of the Legislative Committee we are asking all counties that have not submitted their LAP reimbursement requests to do so well before the deadline. If all counties submit their requests after each season and again just before the June deadline it will go a long ways to show good faith to the legislature that we are doing what we can to promote and conduct good noxious weed control.

ND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UPDATES INFORMATION

By Rachel Seifert-Spilde, NDDA

Tag Funds Can Be Used for Biological Control

This field season the NDDA will not be directly purchasing biological control agents for weed boards or landowners as we have done in previous years. However, those weed boards that have not yet spent their 2009-2011 TAG allocations, this is an opportunity to use those funds (before June 30, 2011) to purchase biological control agents, host field days, move existing agents, etc.

Since current TAG allocations are available through June 30, 2011, the rate for Canada thistle gall flies has been included below. Gall flies are available in the spring and can usually be shipped prior to June 30th, seem to have a high rate of establishment, and are easily distributed, collected and re-distributed. I have included the contact information for the lowest cost supplier of Canada thistle gall flies in our region. **The rate listed below includes a special discount provided to the NDDA and our partners for this field season only.**

Integrated Weed Control-Bob and Cyndi Crayton
Phone: 1-888-319-1632

Urophora carduii-Gall flies for Canada thistle-
\$140/release of 200 flies

The NDDA will have netted sacks and Canada thistle gall fly information available to weed boards and landowners early this spring. Please contact Rachel Seifert-Spilde or Judy Carlson at 1-800-242-7535.

Please remember that your Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) allocation can be used in almost any way that will benefit weed control within your jurisdiction. To use the funds, fill out the TAG proposal form and submit it to Judy or Rachel. We will quickly review it and let you know if it has been approved. Then, you can expend the funds and request reimbursement using the TAG voucher prior to June 30, 2011.

Reminders

For those of you that have not yet submitted your annual weed board report please do so soon online at <http://www.agdepartment.com/weedsurvey/survey.asp>

All vouchers are due June 30, 2011. It is extremely important that you inform the NDDA in writing if you will not be able to use any of the cost-share funds (LAP, TAG contract or TAG allocation) that have been allocated to your weed board for the 2009-2011 biennium.

Temporary Employees

The NDDA will be welcoming back Greg Machart and Allan Aufforth this field season as bee inspectors and part time toadflax applicators. Contact Rachel if you would like help surveying and controlling Dalmatian or yellow toadflax.

We are also hiring a GIS intern and a temporary noxious weed specialist. The GIS intern will be available to help weed boards with their dataloggers. The noxious weed specialist will be available to help with field days, biological control monitoring, collection and redistribution along with other duties as needed.

NDDA Seeks Acreage Reports

Each year we ask county and city weed boards and state, tribal and federal government agencies as well as non-profit agencies to complete noxious weed acreage surveys. We then publish a report that is a compilation of all of the returned surveys and is our best estimation of the acreages of noxious weeds in the state. The survey report provides us with an overall picture of the status of noxious weeds and their spread throughout the state.

Your local county or city weed board will be completing surveys for the private land in your area. We are asking you or your designee to supply acreage and density estimates for the state noxious weeds on the public land in the managing unit(s) within your jurisdiction. The public land surveyed should not include public right-of-way along the county, township, state, and federal highways that may exist within the unit(s).

You can complete the survey for each of the land parcels that you manage by county at

<http://www.agdepartment.com/weedsurvey/survey.asp>

Please let Becky know if your County Weed Board has changed and identify those being replaced also. Mail to 3196 119th Ave SE, Valley City, ND 58072 or e-mail to schroeder.becky@yahoo.com Thanks!

SPRAYER SCHOOLS SLATED

Sprayer Schools are scheduled in **Mandan May 24th** at the Morton County Weed Control office; in **Minot May 25th** at the Ward County Weed Control Office and in **Devils Lake May 26th** at the Ramsey County Court House. More details and information will be available later this month on the list serve. These sprayer schools are attended with a mixture of weed control officers, weed board members and summer seasonal help along with many different agency personnel that do weed control for their district.

We will present updates on the current pesticide weed laws and regulations along with weed ID and updates on current and new weeds that are being found across the state.

A demonstration will be given on how to calibrate a sprayer and application methods; as each individual person is a little different, it is very important that each person knows how to and why a sprayer is calibrated.

There will be a demonstration on the correct way to handle a 4-wheeler. This is very important for safety reasons. With more weed boards and agencies using 4-wheelers we need to know the correct way to handle a 4-wheeler so we do not get injured or worse. There will also be updates on the new chemicals coming out this year.

Since a majority of our Weed Officers are part time/ seasonal employees we need to keep them as well informed as we can. Attending a sprayer school or other educational activity put on by the NDWCA or the NDDA is one of your best ways to keep updated on current activities. We encourage you to attend these activities for your own benefit.

Derrill Fick

Education Committee Chairman

NDWCA INFORMATION NEEDED

The Education Committee is in need of any history about the NDWCA. If you have any history of the Association from its inception until now, it would be greatly appreciated if you would share it. We are looking for board members, policies, legislative issues, workings with the Ag. Dept., etc.

We are also looking for any history of the weed boards across the state for board members that have been in their positions for more than 15 years.

If you have any information on the Association or your weed board, please contact Derrill Fick, PO Box 5005, Minot, ND 58701-5005; e-mail: wcweeds@srt.com or phone 701-852-1970

NPDES PERMIT UPDATE

by Stan Wolf

Good news! On Monday, March 28, the 6th Circuit Court granted a request by EPA to extend the deadline for EPA and states to finalize permits from April 9 until October 31, 2011. **Therefore, no permits will be needed for the 2011 spray season for pesticide applications on or in water.**

However, anyone applying any pesticides applied on or in water will need to notify the North Dakota Department of Health of the planned application and include the chemical name, list of target pests, map of application area, and applicator name and contact info. This is required as per ND water quality statutes.

We are working with the ND Dept of Health in developing an easy to fill out notification form. Stay tuned for further updates which will be sent out via the listserv e-mail distribution.

On another note, hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter the US House of Representatives has passed and sent to the Senate H.R. 872, Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011. This bill if enacted will eliminate the need for NPDES permits if registered pesticides are applied on or in water.

Watch for updates via the listserv emails and call your representatives to voice your support.

CONVENTION HAPPENINGS

38 counties & two cities attended

The auction netted **\$2,862.00** **Thank you to all who came, bought, organized and brought items to sell**

Senior Career Award Winner was Martin Haag of Billings County. Retiring Directors Marge Rayda (2008-2010) and Richard Anderson (2004-2009) were unable to attend. Their years of service were most appreciated!

Blake Schaan, former NDDA "Obnoxious" Weed Specialist, was awarded certificates congratulating him on his promotion as an Enforcement Supervisor and presented him with a sword & badge to commemorate his new job as "The Sheriff."

A Groom's Dollar Dance was held honoring Derrill Fick who tied the knot January 1st. His bride was unable to accompany him as she had to work. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Fick!

Kudos goes out to the 2011 Planning Committee for an informative and fun convention. The planning committee consisted of Dan Folske, Kadie Benson, Rachel Seifert, Derrill Fick, Bill Walker and Becky Schroeder. **Thanks to ALL of you who helped during the convention!**

DAN DEW TRAVELS TO WASHINGTON D.C. AS NDWCA REPRESENTATIVE

By Dan Dew

I was in Washington D.C. from March 14-17 to meet with the legislator from North and South Dakota on the issue of invasive species (any plant or animal species that are not native to the area and can cause commercial or economic problems) in the USA. I represented the North Dakota Weed Control Board. North Dakota was one of fifteen states that were represented. I teamed with Bill Walker and Jack Doolittle, both who were from South Dakota.

The first day was spent meeting the 37 people there and attending a banquet. The second day was spent going through the advocacy plan that would be used when meeting with the representatives and senators.

Wednesday we met with Representative Krisi Noem's office and Senators Tim Johnson's and John Thume's offices, all of South Dakota. Thursday we met with Representative Rick Berg's office and Senators John Hoeven's and Kent Conrad's offices, all of North Dakota.

We discussed the serious concern of invasive species as relating to the country and offering possible means of dealing with the problem. Each day was followed with a debriefing of the day and how the next day could be improved.

The entire program is Phase 1 of the Healthy Habitats Coalition and its attempt to improve invasive species problems. This program will be proceeding into other phases later in the year.

I felt this experience was very worthwhile as North Dakota had some input into the direction this issue was going. Also, we had the opportunity to gain information from other states on education issues and different methods of controlling weeds. The exchange of ideas was very informative. It was an intense four days but well worth it.

Mark your calendars for the 2012 Convention, which will be held January 11-13, 2012 at the Seven Seas Inn, Mandan.

Convention Planners for 2012 are Stan Wolf, Gary Hartman, Ron Manson, Derrill Fick, Rachel Seifert and Becky Schroeder. If there is a speaker or topic that you'd like, please let a committee member know soon, as plans need to be in place by September 15th.