



Walleyes for Tomorrow

Serving the Walleye and Its Habitat since 1991

To WFT-FRC Membership

6-15-20

I was living in hope that I would not have to write this letter to our WFT-FRC membership. Our chapter committee held out as long as we could hoping that we would be able to hold our 28th Annual banquet this year. Originally scheduled for April 18, 2020, we then moved it to July 11, 2020, thinking by then we could all gather together to enjoy time together, talk all things fishing and share what WFT has done this past year to help the Walleyes and Sauger. Since the CDC guidelines have not changed enough to allow the gathering of a group our size with proper social distancing we are sadly canceling this year's banquet. The following is some of what our reasoning is for making this decision. Besides the current CDC guidelines we could not be sure that even if we secured a later date at LaSure's the guidelines would be relaxed enough to allow the banquet. Also if we picked a date later in the year it would conflict with the various different hunting banquets that many of you attend. We will move forward and are already working on and looking at a Saturday in early April of 2021 for the banquet.

For all the members who have sent in their money for the 2020 banquet we plan on rolling over your banquet membership in 2021, including your request for the at the door pre-gun prizes. If for some reason you will not be able to attend the 2021 banquet once we have set the date, you will have up to 30 days before the banquet to get a full refund. We will send out a letter of invitation in late January for the 2021 banquet in case you want to make any changes to attendees and/or pre-gun ticket orders.

Now for some news from your chapter and WFT in general showing where your chapter banquet money has benefited locally. The Princeton dam project was completed in late spring way ahead of schedule. The fish way turned out great and looks like it should give an easy passageway to more spawning marshes upstream. The dam itself is a fixed head dam so the only thing regulating water depth downstream now is Mother Nature and her rains. If you have a chance, go check it out. The fish way is on the north side of the river down Lock Rd., southwest of Princeton. You can also access the dam from the south side off of Oxbow Trail.

The culvert portion of the project on the Wiess property was completed in February of 2020, except for some spoils removal. This is creating great water flow through another spawning marsh from just below the Eureka Locks to about ½ mile above it. Beside it being a spawning marsh this also gives the Walleye & Sauger a new, much easier passage up river. The bank cut will be done as soon as weather & water levels permit. Thanks to the WFT volunteers, the DNR, Mike Arrowood and Petraszak Excavating for help on this project.

CoVid-19 did shut down all of the WFT hatcheries this year, but we will have them up and running next year. Speaking of hatcheries, if you catch a Sauger between the mouth of the Fox River and upstream, please take a small fin clip of its dorsal fin, put in an envelope or similar, record where you caught it and contact a WFT-FRC committee member or myself (wftfoxriver@gmail.com) so we can have it DNA tested to check the success of our Sauger hatchery on the Fox River.

Thank you all for your support over all these years. We look forward to seeing you all at the 2021 banquet!

Keep a tight line,
George Francek - chairman

Walleyes for Tomorrow (WFT)

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A post for our Facebook page:

We are sorry to announce that the July 11, 2020 WFT-FRC banquet has been cancelled. Please see the attachment for further information. Thank you.