



PRESS RELEASE

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Digital photography available on request

Doug Mientkiewicz Hits Grant Slam For Wildlife

Minnetonka, MN – Doug Mientkiewicz' second annual Bass Fishing Classic raised a record \$60,000 for Minnesota based conservation organization Wildlife Forever. The groups' mission is to preserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife.

The Doug Mientkiewicz Bass Fishing Classic was held Monday, June 28, 2004 amid sunny skies and calm blue waters. The team format tournament matches a celebrity athlete with a professional bass angler and an amateur in each boat. The 33 boats all arrived on time for the 1:00 PM weigh-in and a large crowd to watch each Minnesota Twin weigh-in with his team. Among past and present Twins weighing fish were Lew Ford, Gene Larking, Jacques Jones, Jack Morris, Bert Blyleven, Johan Santana, Matthew LeCroy and Corey Koskie.

World Series champion and former Twin Kent Hrbek along with Doug Mientkiewicz and Eric Gisslasson acted as emcees as each team brought their catch to the stage. According to Douglas Grann, President & CEO of Wildlife Forever: "The crowd was trilled having the two best first basemen in Twins history take the stage together. It was a rare opportunity to share the wonders of the great outdoors with Minnesota Twins fans."

The team of Brad Monnette, Matt Peters and Rodney McCormick with 16.24 pounds took first place. Second place went to Doug Mientkiewicz, Dean Capra and Robert Blake with 15.34 pounds. Jamie Ogden, David Skallet and Jim Gerchy won third place with 13.39 pounds.

All of the fish were successfully released back into the lake, a 100% release rate, thanks to the advanced oxygenating technology of Aqua-Innovations and their special release boat.

Expenses were kept very low thanks to the donated support of Maynard's Restaurant, the Minnesota Twins, Minnetonka Outdoors, Stearns and the pro bass anglers, each of whom donated their time, boat and fishing equipment.

"Proceeds from this year's event will be used to fund grassroots conservation grants for fish and wildlife work throughout the country", said Grann. "Local sportsmen groups and conservation clubs can apply for challenge grants directly from Wildlife Forever. This is another example of the Twins supporting the community and our natural resources."

Sponsors of the tournament included: The Minnesota Twins, Ranger Boats, Yamaha engines, Fox Sports Net, WCCO Radio, Twin City Co-ops Federal Credit Union, Stearns and Minnetonka Outdoors.

The tournament's fundraising efforts were supplemented with an on-site silent auction that raised nearly \$5,000. In addition, one amateur fishing spot was raffled off during the month of May that raised \$1,500. Additionally, in a surprise donation, Twin City Co-ops Federal Credit Union pledged \$5.00 for every pound of bass brought to the scale, adding another \$ 1,100 to their already generous contribution.

Wildlife Forever is one of the nation's leading multi-species nonprofit conservation organizations. Its national mission is to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife. As the nonprofit arm of the North American Hunting Club and the North American Fishing Club, Wildlife Forever is the conservation advocate for one million outdoor enthusiasts.

To become a member of Wildlife Forever or to learn more about wildlife conservation efforts, visit the Wildlife Forever web site at: www.wildlifeforever.org or call 763-253-0222.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Douglas H. Grann, President/CEO of Wildlife Forever accepts a check from Doug Mientkiewicz of the Minnesota Twins and his wife Jodi.