

Cry of the Wild



Summer 2004, Volume 58

Newsletter of Wildlife Forever

Go For The Gould's ... Wild Turkeys Return To Arizona

Populations of the Gould's wild turkey in **Arizona** are being restored thanks in part to a grant from Wildlife Forever.

The Arizona State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation partnered with Wildlife Forever to provide \$5,000 in support of the reintroduction of Gould's wild turkey into its native range in Arizona.

In a joint project between Wildlife Forever, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the National Wild Turkey Federation, 50 Gould's turkeys were captured in Mexico and air transported to a quarantine facility in Arizona. 43 birds survived the 35-day quarantine and were released in the Chiricahua, Pinaleno and Huachuca mountain ranges of southeastern Arizona.

Populations of the Gould's wild turkey were wiped out in Arizona by 1920 after American settlement of the region. Turkey populations have remained stable in the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico, where the

birds were trapped. The reintroduced Gould's wild turkeys will be monitored by radio telemetry to determine the

home range and preferred habitat of the released turkeys. The study will continue for 2 years and determine if and where additional reintroduction efforts are needed.

This was Wildlife Forever's 19th project dedicated specifically to wild turkeys. It was also the sixth time Wildlife Forever has reintroduced wild turkeys into their former native habitats.

After arriving by chartered jet, the Gould's wild turkeys were "unpacked" for quarantine before being released into their new Arizona habitat.





From The Field

An Eventful Summer

It's been a busy first half of the Summer for the Wildlife Forever staff. Especially, the month of June when Wildlife Forever holds its two biggest events of the year.

The Doug Mientkiewicz Bass Fishing



Classic has become an annual event that raises a significant amount of money for wildlife conservation. We're very grateful to star first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz and the Minnesota Twins for their exceptional efforts.

Wildlife Forever members who would like to add their thank you to ours, can write to Doug Mientkiewicz at: Minnesota Twins, 34 Kirby Puckett Place, Minneapolis MN 55415.

Wildlife Forever also held the 6th annual State-Fish Art Expo at the Mall of America. Showcased were the winning works of art from children all over the United States.

The State-Fish Art Contest has developed into one of Wildlife Forever's most potent programs for teaching and involving kids in conservation education. With so many of America's youth now residing in the cities and suburbs, they are missing the opportunity to discover the wonders of the natural world. With that, they seldom understand the importance of conserving America's wildlife heritage. This and other Wildlife Forever educational efforts are making a big difference for the future of our fish and wildlife.

You can help by encouraging your local schools to use the special curriculum, Fish On! It's free for downloading at our web site: www.statefishart.com.

Conservation education will ultimately determine the future of America's wildlife heritage.

Yours for wildlife . . . forever,

Douglas H. Grann
President & CEO

Grieve Elected Wildlife Forever Chairman

Scott MacDonald Grieve was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Wildlife Forever during the most recent Board meeting.

A long time volunteer, Life Member and Board member of Wildlife Forever, Grieve's passion for the outdoors is equaled only by his concern for the conservation of America's natural resources. In addition to

his regular support for Wildlife Forever, Grieve funded



the Coniferous Forest biome of the renovated Wildlife ... forever Wing within the DNR Building at the Minnesota State Fair grounds.

According to Douglas H. Grann, President & CEO of Wildlife Forever, "Over the years, Scott's support and guidance as a member of the Board has been invaluable. We look forward to his leadership as Chairman".

Grieve is the Founder of Big Island Publishing, a producer and publisher of computer software and DVDs, located in Excelsior, Minnesota on the shores of Lake Minnetonka. His passion for the outdoors is mirrored also in his business. Big Island Publishing has published an extensive library of outdoor titles including Rapala's "Secrets to More & Bigger Fish" DVD.

Wildlife Forever's new Chairman of the Board, Scott Grieve, on a recent trip to Alaska.

Giving While You Work: CFC #2628

Did you know that as a federal employee you can make a contribution to Wildlife Forever through the **Combined Federal Campaign**?

Wildlife Forever is number **2628**. Please **be sure to indicate on your CFC form that you wish to be acknowledged**, so we'll know you "gave while at work." Thanks for your donation and concern for conservation. Together we can all work for wildlife ... forever.



Your contribution supports...

- Conservation projects
- Wetland restoration
- Wildlife viewing areas
- Access for anglers and hunters
- Educational programs in schools
- Wildlife and fisheries research studies

Cry of the Wild is a quarterly publication of Wildlife Forever. Douglas H. Grann, Editor, President & CEO
Pete Wuebker, Director of Marketing • Brett Richardson, Writer
Todd Sauers, Designer • Logo photo by Lon E. Lauber
Wildlife Forever, 2700 Freeway Blvd., #1000, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430 (763) 253-0222.

Visit our web page at www.wildlifeforever.org or
E-mail us at info@wildlifeforever.org



SPECIAL REPORT

State Fish Art Contest



The Art Of Conservation



1999 Best of Show
Northern Pike by Nevada Miller, ND



2000 Best of Show
Cutthroat Trout by Matthew Mullen, WY



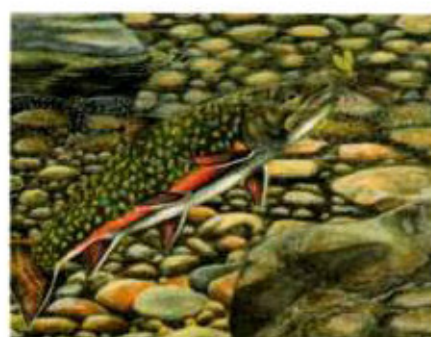
2001 Best of Show
Largemouth Bass by Matt Rudolph, IN



2002 Best of Show
Cutthroat Trout by Matthew Mullen, WY



2003 Best of Show
Brook Trout by Joshua Joint, PA



2004 Best of Show
Brook Trout by Joshua Joint, PA

Throughout its first six years the State-Fish Art Contest has introduced thousands of students nationwide to aquatic conservation and the amazing underwater world of fish.

To enter the State-Fish Art Contest, students create a portfolio including an illustration of their state-fish and an essay detailing its habitat, behavior, and efforts to conserve it. Winners are recognized from each state in three grade categories, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Each summer, Wildlife Forever hosts the

State-Fish Art Expo to recognize the creativity and hard work of the young artists. Winners from across the United States travel to Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota to participate in the festivities that include a family fishing event, educational games, an awards ceremony, and reception.

The State-Fish Art Contest imparts conservation lessons through a fun-oriented medium, creative art, that sparks the imagination of youth, fosters curiosity along with fundamental knowledge, and

establishes a foundation for life-long learning and stewardship of aquatic resources. According to Wildlife Forever President & CEO Doug Grann, "The Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest is a program that emphasizes the wonder and enjoyment to be found in the natural world. We strongly believe that conservation education will ultimately determine the future of our wildlife heritage. By using art, the State-Fish Art Contest teaches important lessons in a way that truly resonates with youth."



And The Winner Is ...

Wildlife Forever was pleased to host a celebration of youth art, aquatic conservation, and the great outdoors at the 2004 State-Fish Art Expo at Mall of America on June 12th and 13th. State winners of the 6th annual Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest traveled to **Minnesota** from as far away as **Idaho, New Jersey, Nevada, and Texas** to participate in the action-packed weekend that included an awards ceremony, a family fishing event, and a special afternoon with the Minnesota Twins.

The winning artwork was on display for hundreds of thousands of Mall of America visitors to admire. The awards ceremony was held in the Mall's central rotunda and acknowledged the hard work and creativity of the talented young artists before an excited crowd. Wildlife Forever's Chairman of the Board Scott Grieve presented each student with a blue ribbon and prizes.

The young aquatic artists and their families participated in a fishing event with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Minn Aqua program. The event took place in Buffalo, Minnesota and provided an introduction to fishing and outdoor recreation. "The future of our wildlife heritage and natural resources depends on quality conservation education for today's youth. The support of parents in traveling all the way to Minnesota from across the United States



Each winner has their moment in the spotlight as they are congratulated on stage by Wildlife Forever Chairman Scott Grieve and President/CEO Douglas H. Grann.



The Minnesota Twins welcomed all the attending winners on to the field for a pregame salute of their efforts.

demonstrates that, together, we're accomplishing that goal," remarked Wildlife Forever President & CEO Douglas H. Grann. The Minnesota Twins also recognized the contest winners in a pregame awards presentation on the Metrodome playing field before their game with the Philadelphia Phillies on June 13th. The

contest winners and their artwork were displayed on the giant Jumbotron screen for the Sunday crowd to admire. Twins first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz and his wife Jodi provided Expo attendees and their families with free tickets to the game. According to Grann, "The Twins are huge supporters of the youth of our community and throughout the nation. To see Doug Mientkiewicz personally shake hands with the winning artists just minutes before playing baseball demonstrates his commitment to sharing the wonders of the great outdoors with America's youth."

State-Fish Art Contest Enters Seventh Year

What began as a father/daughter school project to research the state-fish of the United States has evolved into one of Wildlife Forever's most effective conservation education programs.

During that time, literally hundreds of thousands of people have been touched with Wildlife Forever's message regarding the importance of aquatic conservation. More importantly, many thousands of kids have participated in the hands-on effort to illustrate their state-fish and write about fish habitat, life-cycle and

conservation efforts.

The Contest has also evolved into a school curriculum that is free to any teacher or homeschooling parent. The entire curriculum can be downloaded from the Contest's web site: www.statefishart.com.

The program's ability to reach so many people and kids is due, in part, to the outstanding support of many national celebrities associated with fishing. Recognizing the importance of teaching America's youth to conserve fish and

wildlife, they have donated their time and effort to get the message out by acting as national spokespersons, an honorary chairperson and recording public service announcements for television and radio.

The State-Fish Art Contest also requires funding. Nothing can happen without it. Over the past six years, a variety of well-known companies have jumped into the conservation boat to help Wildlife Forever reach and teach America's children. Wildlife Forever is deeply grateful for their past and future support.



NFL Hall of Fame coach and outdoorsman Bud Grant was the first national spokesperson, helping make the Contest's first year a great success.



Champion angler and host of Bill Dance Outdoors, Bill Dance is the 2004 national spokesperson.



Steve Pennaz Wildlife Forever board member and host of ESPN2's North American Fisherman and North American Outdoors was the national spokesperson in 2002.



National television star and columnist, Babe Winkelman has been both a national spokesperson and has continued to serve annually as the honorary chairperson of the State-Fish Art Contest.

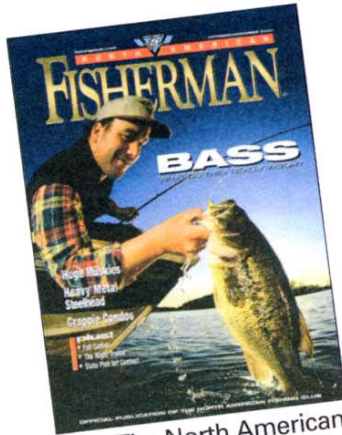


Ron Schara, columnist and host of ESPN's "Backroads with Ron and Raven", The Outdoor Channel's "Call of the Wild" and KARE11's "Minnesota Bound" has served as both a judge and national spokesperson.

State-Fish Art Sponsors



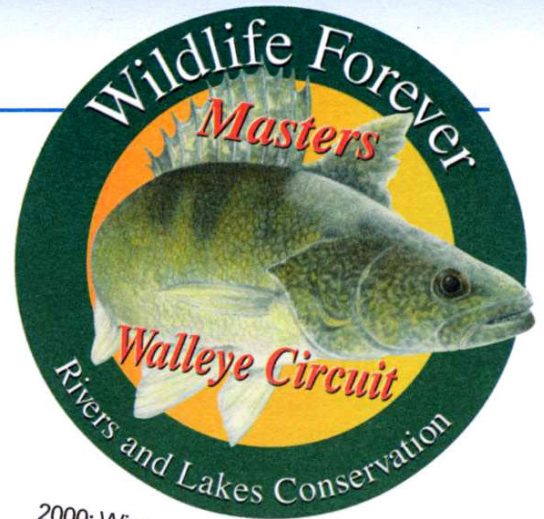
A Look Back ...



1999: The North American Fisherman magazine has supported Wildlife Forever's Contest from the beginning by publishing each year's list of winners and selected examples of outstanding art.



2000: Minnesota winners from the 1999 Contest are featured on the cover of the 2000 Minnesota Fishing Regulations.



2000: Winning artwork of a walleye is incorporated into the new logo for the Masters Walleye Circuit, the nation's oldest team walleye competition.



1999: The Mall of America hosts the first State-Fish Art Expo celebrating the winning artwork with hundreds of thousands from across the country. The Mall of America has been the host site every year since.



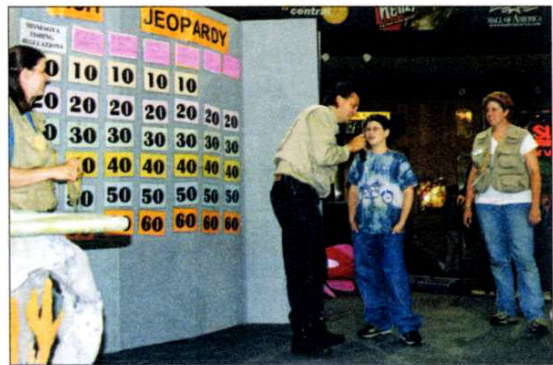
2002: Brie Jenkins poses with her first award. Since then, Brie's two other sisters have also entered the Contest, with all three winning their respective grade categories for the state of Missouri in 2004.



2004: Cheap Joe's Art Stuff sponsors The People's Choice Award.



2002: Among the many popular activities at the State-Fish Expo has been the electronic bass fishing game.



2001: Fish "Jeopardy" based on the popular TV show debuts as a fun family event for Mall visitors to learn about fish and aquatic conservation.

Twins Hit Grant Slam For Wildlife

Minnesota Twins' first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz' second annual Bass Fishing Classic raised a record \$60,000 for Wildlife Forever.

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

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

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. And 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 president and CEO Douglas H. Grann accepts a ceremonial check from Doug Mientkiewicz and his wife Jody for \$60,000.

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 Larkin, 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 acted as emcees as each team brought their catch to the stage. According to Douglas H. Grann, President & CEO of Wildlife Forever: "The crowd was thrilled having the two best first basemen in Twins history take the stage together. It was a rare opportunity to share the wonders of

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

Official Sponsors Of The Doug Mientkiewicz Bass Fishing Classic



Non-Native Plants Invade Platte River

Platte River Basin Environments, Inc. (PRBEI) is undertaking the restoration of more than 850 acres of habitat along the North Platte River in western **Nebraska** thanks in part to a Sportsmen's Challenge Grant from Wildlife Forever. Wildlife Forever partnered with the Oregon Trail Chapter of Pheasants Forever to provide \$7,000 for PRBEI's enhancement efforts.

PRBEI's conservation efforts stem from the vision of a local sportsman, Clive Ostenberg, and was formed to restore and enhance the hunting and outdoor heritage of the North Platte River corridor. PRBEI has acquired



Inside:

Turkeys In Arizona

New Wildlife
Forever Chairman

Minnesota Twins Support
Wildlife Forever

Special Report
State-Fish Art Contest



Most of the invasive plant were simply dug up and destroyed. However, a few species were so prolific that spot spraying with herbicide was the only way to ensure their eradication.

parcels of land and begun the process of restoring them as productive habitats for turkey and other species of upland birds, waterfowl, and deer.

The Wildlife Forever grant is being used to eradicate non-native invasive plant species along the riparian river frontage and adjacent meadows of the North Platte River. Growth of Salt Cedar, Russian olive, downy brome, musk thistle, Canada thistle, and Scotch thistle were overcoming the native species and disrupting the ecological balance needed for productive upland habitat.

These efforts will foster the return of native grassland plant species and a healthy native prairie ecosystem, as well as new growth of willow and cottonwood trees along the riparian river frontage. The project's progress will be assessed and the necessary habitat maintenance overseen by a team from the University of Nebraska, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, and Nebraska Game & Parks. Thanks to Wildlife Forever, sportsmen will find more and better hunting opportunities along the North Platte River in Nebraska.