

# OUTDOORS

## CALL OF THE WILD

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community who have a unique hunting, fishing or outdoors tale.  
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STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

## Wild parsnip in bloom

Wild parsnip is blooming again around Borderland. The invasive species seems to be spreading each year with fields of the plant seen in International Falls, and in ditches and even yards. The sap, or juice, of this plant, found when it is cut or bent, is toxic. If the juice contacts the skin and reacts with sunlight, it can cause severe rashes and burns. This condition is known as phytophotodermatitis, according to the Minnesota Department

of Natural Resources website. Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) is a tall (six inches – four feet) perennial herbaceous plant. It spends the first year as a small rosette (six inches tall) and can grow up to four feet in its flowering stage. Wild parsnip has broad, flat-topped yellow flowers which bloom throughout the summer months. This plant is native to Europe and Asia. Because the roots are edible, it was brought to the United States and planted as a



food source. It escaped cultivation and is now a widespread invasive plant across the United States.

## Teams register for 19th FFCBC

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

As of this week, 92 teams are registered for the three-day Fort Frances Bass Championship July 25-27.

This year's event will see a few changes based on angler feedback, according to reports. The 19th-annual FFBC will return to the big tent at the Sorting Gap Marina for the daily weigh-ins and nightly entertainment following a three-year stint at the Memorial Sports Centre.

In addition to that change, the entry fee for this year's tournament, has been reduced from a \$1,000 to \$800.

Boats depart each day between 5-7 a.m. from the Sport Gap Marina and weigh-ins are scheduled to start at 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at 3 p.m. Saturday, prior to the 5 p.m. top 10 parade.

Mark Raveling and Mike Luhman will return to defend their 2012 title, return-

ing as team No. 1 in this year's event. Teams numbers are assigned based on the previous year's finish.

Many anglers familiar to the International Falls Bass Championship are registered to fish the Ontario catch-and-release tournament. Previous winners of the IFBC and local Falls residents are scheduled to compete.

Duane Peterson, part of the 2012 IFBC championship team, will compete with Travis Peterson as the No. 10 team.

The No. 2 team features Chad Johnson and John Janousek, champions in 2006 of the Falls tournament.

Jeff Gustafson, part of the 2011 and 2010 Falls championship team, will pair with John Peterson, part of the 2012 IFBC championship team, as team No. 3.

Falls angler Richard Rud, who with Jon Austin tied with another team for

the 2011 FFCBC championship, will pair with Falls angler Leroy Wilson as team No. 31.

Several Falls anglers are also registered to fish the Ontario tournament. Tony Holenko, Falls, will fish with Darrin Ward as team No. 8; Ray Watson and Norm Wood are team No. 30; Jason Pavleck and Bill Walls are team No. 36; Larry Bollig and Todd Bollig will compete as team No. 74; Kyle Monkman and Brad Rissanen will fish at team No. 75; Calvin McKay and Dan Fontent are team No. 76; and George McDonald and Kevin Erickson will compete as team Mo. 83.

Meanwhile, organizers of the International Falls Bass Championship are gearing up for the ninth annual event, scheduled for Aug. 21-24. The catch-and-release two-day fishing tournament takes place on Rainy Lake and Rainy River.

## DNR introduces 'clean-and-drain' areas

### Rainy Lake accesses may include areas in future

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

To help boaters prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is adding more than 200 "clean-and-drain" areas to statewide public water access sites this summer.

The special areas will act as visual reminders to boaters to clean and drain their boats properly and provide safe and convenient places to do this. Installing components of the "clean and drain" areas at high-use sites on infested waters is a priority.

"Minnesota is the first state in the nation to implement this type of modification at multiple water access sites," said DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr. "The boat 'clean-and-drain' areas are a part of the DNR's ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Everyone who has a boat on a trailer has the personal responsibility to prevent the spread of invasive species; these areas will make it easier."

A DNR spokeswoman said no accesses in the International Falls area will be designated for the addition of clean-and-drain areas, but she said the agency will consider sites in Borderland

in the future. In addition, she said the agency is committed to working with local residents and sportfishing clubs to discourage the spread of invasive species in the Rainy Lake area.

Meanwhile, the new areas should make it easy for boaters to understand what they need to do and where to do it. The aim is to put an end to the unsightly piles of discarded aquatic vegetation and bait that are sometimes left behind on ramps or in parking areas because there weren't designated places for these materials after they were removed from boats. Sometimes boaters stop on ramps to pull their boat's plug. This is unsafe and causes delays and can release harmful species or chemicals into the water.

Components include compost bins (to dispose of aquatic vegetation, unwanted bait, bait bucket water and zebra mussels), and pavement stencils and signs (to delineate activity areas and inform boaters).

The new areas should be used whether or not a watercraft inspector is present.

The following routine should become new protocol for boaters:

Load boat onto trailer safely and pull forward to boat "clean-and-drain" area.

Clean boat by removing plants, zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species from watercraft, trailer, anchor and all water-related equipment.

Dispose of plants and animals in disposal bin.

Dump bait bucket water (and unwanted minnows and leeches) into disposal bin. Plan ahead to save minnows and leeches by transferring them to containers prefilled with well, bottled, distilled or otherwise purified tap water. Take unwanted worms and garbage to trash, which is often offsite (wanted worms can be saved).

Drain water from boat, ballast tanks and motor. Drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs. Keep drain plugs out and all water-draining devices open for travel.

Finish tying down the boat and securing equipment for travel.

More information about AIS best management practices for boat launch administrators can be found at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/water\\_access.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/water_access.html) or requested from the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-646-6367 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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