



# MATTERS OF OPINION



**Terry Steinwand**  
*Director*

On any given day I receive a number of phone calls and walk-in visitors. While most are enjoyable and informative, some stand above the others.

I had one of these in late April when a gentleman walked into my office and asked for a little time. Most often these conversations understandably revolve around natural resource or hunting issues. This was not one of those, but certainly one of the more interesting conversations I've had in a long time, primarily because I like history, particularly military history.

My visitor was named Andrew Dodds (but he called himself Drew), an immigrant from Scotland who moved to Winnipeg, Canada with his parents at an early age. He talked of traveling to North Dakota and Minnesota during his teenage years, and during that time developed a belief in United States foreign policy. Drew tried to join the U.S. Marine Corps, but was not allowed to do so without acquiring an immigration visa and therefore required to return to Canada.

There's no doubt in my mind that Drew is passionate about his belief in the U.S. and its stance on a number of foreign policy issues. There's also no doubt in his passion for the military. Drew has written a book called "American Heroes Remembered," putting three years of life as well as tens of thousands of dollars of his own money into the effort. He's now trying to get memorials placed in Grand Forks and Fargo of the same name – American Heroes Remembered.

In reading a number of e-mails, looking at numerous websites associated with hunting and fishing, I believe the vast majority of North Dakota's sportsmen and women support the military and recognize that many of our freedoms, including the privilege to hunt and fish, are the result of the sacrifice of others. We should all be thankful and assist in

whatever way we can to remember those who have served, and continue to serve, so bravely.

## A Peek Inside

In this issue of *North Dakota OUT-DOORS* you'll find an interesting piece on the swift fox, the most diminutive member of the Canidae family that is so seldom seen on the North Dakota landscape. The swift fox is considered extirpated in the state, and I'm betting that I'm like many of you in that I've never seen one of these animals in the wild. Yet, with the occasional fox showing up here and there, maybe someday we can say differently.

In these pages you will also read about a paddlefish population that calls the Garrison reach of the Missouri River home. While these unique, prehistoric fish have persisted in this stretch of river for years, it's only now that we're learning more and more about their existence between two gigantic dams.

I'll leave it up to you to explore the remaining pages of *North Dakota OUT-DOORS*. But before you do, I must talk about the dry conditions in the western two-thirds of the state.

We certainly need some precipitation, not only for those water-dependent species, but also for all summer recreationists. It's extremely dry out there and burn bans exist in many areas. Those of us who enjoy summer camping and fishing trips will be influenced by these burn bans, but they're absolutely necessary under the circumstances. So please be careful under these dry conditions.

But even if you're prohibited from building a campfire and toasting s'mores, get out and enjoy the fishing and other wonderful outdoor opportunities in North Dakota's outdoors.

*Terry Steinwand*