COMMENTARY

Catch carp during May 31 tournament

BY MEGHAN LITSEY

Looking for a challenge? Enter the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District’s second annual carp tournament on Saturday, May 31. The tournament will run from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Weigh-in and an award ceremony will take place at Captain Jack’s, 3650 Green Heights Trail in Prior Lake starting at 3 p.m. For more information, contact Meghan Litsey at 952-378-2163 or mlitsey@plswd.org.

For more information, or to register in advance, visit www.plswd.org/2014/05/carp_tournament. Same day registration will be at Captain Jack’s at 10 a.m.

As one of the world’s most wily freshwater fish, common carp are revered for their solid game, but despised for their harm to local fisheries and water quality. Help the watershed district round up carp on May 31, and you and your friends could possibly snag the $1,000 grand prize.

This tournament is open to everyone, and the watershed district will award prizes for first, second and third places, and biggest fish. Traditional bowfishing is recommended, but spearing or netting is also allowed. The cost is $25 to register. Spots are limited. Meghan Litsey is the outreach specialist with the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District. The public is invited to attend the regular meetings of the watershed district Board of Managers on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Prior Lake City Hall.

Last year, the biggest fish prize went to the under-18 team Back Country Bowfishing. The team caught a 28.8-pound carp. Pictured are Nicholas Simpkins, Ryan Doyle, David Simpkins and Ryan Wetherell.

Watershed board seeks new member

A resident living in the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District is needed to serve on the district’s Board of Managers. The board oversees many efforts to conserve, protect and manage water resources within the watershed district, working closely with local cities, townships, Scott County and state agencies. Ongoing activities include:

- Water quality monitoring
- Land management (filter strips, wetland restoration)
- Lake water quality improvement efforts (aquatic plant management, water quality education, cost-share projects)
- Permitting and inspection of development and other land disturbing activities
- Prior Lake outlet operation and maintenance, and long-term planning for Prior Lake water levels (including enhancement of the Prior Lake Outlet Channel)
- Business, homeowner and school-age education

The watershed covers about 44 square miles in Scott County, primarily in the city of Prior Lake and Spring Lake Township along with portions of Sand Creek Township and the cities of Shakopee and Savage. The purpose of the district is to conserve, protect and manage the water resources in the watershed, including 14 lakes and the 7-mile long Prior Lake Outlet Channel. More information is at www.plswd.org.

The board consists of five members appointed by the Scott County commissioners for three-year terms. There are no term limits. Board members must live within the watershed district’s geographical area. Interested candidates should contact Deb Brazil at dbrazil@co.scott.mn.us or 952-496-8650 for an application. All applications must be submitted by May 15.