



# Hook, Line, and Sinker

*The Official Newsletter of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen*

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## Special Regulations for Fishing

by Scott Sparlin

Two years ago I had the opportunity to be a part of the long range (10-20 years) and short range (5 years) future of fishing in Minnesota. It was called the Fishing Roundtable and was held at Brainerd, MN. We were basically locked up for two and a half days of intensive discussions with a quite knowledgeable and distinguished group of people who were from a variety of interests from all over the state of Minnesota. It was probably the most mentally tapping experience like this I had ever taken part in. The whole thing was overseen by the Minnesota DNR and included in the group were many fish management people. However, they were in a minority as far as numbers goes. I'm setting all this up to give you a feel for the situation and what I believe were quite significant outcomes.

In this article I will address one of the many topics we felt had a direct impact on the future of fishing in Minnesota. This will be the first in a series of issues reviewing this process.

Special regulations is a broad term that

encompasses the management of the actual fish population, to license requirements, boat usage, public access usage, outboard motor limitations and many others. These all directly or indirectly have an impact on the final outcome of what was coined as "quality fishing experience". Now, one person's idea of a quality fishing experience may differ from another's and this was a topic in and of itself. So what we tried to focus on, was some definitions of this and incorporate that into a vision for the future.

Most studies done recently in the area of sustainable fishing as it applies to the actual act of fishing, as opposed to fish habitat, point to the fact that what was viewed as catch and release or good fishing ethics in the past, is not so. Most of us were brought up with the belief that if we kept the big fish and threw back the little ones we would be doing our part in securing the fish population for the future. Well, it's not that simple. But, in a nutshell what the end result of that type of practice gives you, is smaller fish and a drastic decline in fish populations. There are exceptions as in

any area of management. This is why another topic that was hotly discussed, was that of "Individual Lake Management", which I will cover in another column.

Most of the documentation done on successful situations points to keeping smaller fish, some trophy sized fish and returning fish capable of survival and reproduction. One specific regulation is a "slot limit" which is, any fish in a particular length. Let's say for walleye 18 to 23 inches is the size to be returned, you have now provided a size of fish that will develop into a possible trophy and one that is capable of reproduction and replenishing the "keeper" category of 17" and under. Proper handling of these sized fish makes for a better chance of survival than those of smaller sizes that are much more prone to natural mortality.

Next time I will get into "Individual Lake Management", an area that sounds like it has lots of possibilities, but, there could be some down side effects also. Anyone wanting more info on this can contact me at PO Box 488, New Ulm, MN 56073 or talk to me at a meeting.

## Wood Duck Boxes

At the last meeting we asked for people to sponsor Wood Duck boxes that were being sold to us for the cost of materials. Eight boxes were sponsored by members. Willard Hulke, who built the boxes, then donated two more to the club. Isaak Walton also donated four boxes to us. They have been placed at Clear lake and MinneCon Park on the Minnesota River. Thank you to those who sponsored and put the boxes up.

### River Clean Up

River clean up has been set for Saturday, May 2, 1992 at 8:30 AM. We will meet at Riverside Park and get going from there. Remember this is not exclusively for Club Members. Talk to your neighbors and friends about it and invite them to come along.

### Club Calendar

April 30, 1992 - Meeting at Turner Hall - 7:30 PM

May 2, 1992 - River Clean Up - Riverside Park - 8:30 AM

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# Are You Ready for the Opener?

The time is drawing near. Only a few weeks left to go. It is time to drag out the tackle box and check things out. You can start by throwing out all the tackle you absolutely had to have last year but never used. You have to because you need room for the stuff you are buying right now. Seriously it is a good idea to go through you box now and make sure you have everything you need. There are always one or two items you always seem to use and lose more of. Make sure the line on your reels is fresh and the guides on your rod are clean and free of nicks or scratches that can damage your line. It also is handy to carry a couple of bandages and a small bottle of

aspirin. Now is also the time to check your boat and trailer over. Drain the old gas out of the tank and start with fresh. Check the spark plugs and make sure you have an extra set on board. You never know when one will foul out. Make sure the battery is full of water and has a fresh charge in it. You do not want to get to the lake and then find out you have a dead battery. Also make sure your license is up-to-date. The one on your boat, the trailer and in your pocket. It seems to me that half the fun of the first fishing trip of the year is getting ready. So lets get started now and good fishing.

Mike Deinken

## Clear Lake Update

The ice is gone! Soon we will be on the lake fishing again. The lake made it through the winter in great shape. The aerator did its job and we had no problems with the system this season. The lake seems to be in good shape as there is a large amount of bait already showing up around the shoreline. The other day I observed numerous frogs, snails and small leaches in the weeds around the shore. Again more garbage was

picked up around the public access. It seems that I am always complaining about this problem, but it is something we have to keep on top of.

On Sunday, April 5th, Ron Ludewig, Jim Hull, my son Mark, and myself picked up thin ice signs at clear lake. We did fairly wee as all the signs were trapped in the weeds on the south side of the lake. All 81 signs were recovered.

## Club Jackets

I have received commitments for eight jackets from members. We still need four more before we can place an order, to get the best price. If you are interested come to the next meeting or stop at Printwear Graphics and talk to John Vorwerk.

The *Hook, Line, and Sinker* is published monthly by John and Chris Vorwerk for the New Ulm Area Sports Fishermen. Send all correspondence to:

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### New Ulm Area Sports Fishermen

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# From the President

Recently area Hydrologist for the DNR, Jim Sehl finished the survey work on the other side of the MinneCon Park Wetland. The facts and figures show that all that is needed is to put in some stop logs (removable for drawdown) and to raise the height of the parking lot 1 1/2 feet. We tip our hats for the work he has done on both sides of the road into the park. We can obtain 3 feet of water which is the optimum for a wetland of this type.

Many of you read the article in the New Ulm Journal about the donation of paintings by Artist Otto Pheiffer, formerly of New Ulm. We are anxiously awaiting their arrival. To date, four have been sold, sight unseen. Once we have them on display I am confident they will go fast. We can take pride in the fact that people feel we are doing positive, inspiring things for the Minnesota River.

I recently had the opportunity to speak to a group that was formed largely because of last year's Rally and Convention. They are now a group larger than 50 who are dedicated to returning water quality to the Minnesota river. Most from that group will be in attendance in September. After the meeting I had an opportunity to sing the four songs that I have written do date concerning the Minnesota River. To say they went over big is an understatement, they were such a hit that evening I was asked to perform them the next day in Granite falls for the 4th and 6th grade classes who have recently chosen the Minnesota River as their "Environmental Project" which was funded by the Federal Government. I thought it went good in Montevideo the night before but the kids really ate it up and the media took advantage of it to the max. I guess what I am trying to say is that I think we have really started something and I am damned excited, and I know all of you are too.

Our May 2nd Clean up, that was set at the

last meeting, kicks off Clean Rivers Week nationwide. Here's hoping we get a good turnout, I am confident that we will. Meeting place is Riverside Park - 9:00 AM. We will discuss this further at the meeting on April 30 at Turner Hall, 7:30 PM. If you have heavy equipment such as, tractors, backhoe that you are willing to donate for the clean up, please contact me.

Our thanks to Willard Hulke for the wood duck houses he built, and the club is to be commended for the response they showed. Hats off!!

Mike Deinken's recent display of aggressiveness and tenacity to obtain new membership is to be duly noted. The signing of Mike Filson, brother of KNUJ air personality, Brian Filson (NUASF member) proves that when feathers are ruffled and dignity if questioned, that a positive display of action pretty much shuts everybody up about past misgivings. I liken much to an opponent who is intent on badgering his counterpart in the heat of competition trailing in score, one simply has to turn to glance at the scoreboard to assess the situation. Good job Mike - you are off the hook for the neighbor incident. R.I.P.

Seeking on membership, last meeting we started a membership special for NUASF club members. Anyone signing up 3 new members before July 1 receives a free T-shirt. Anyone signing up 7 new members in that period of time received a free NUASF jacket courtesy Printwear Graphics (John Vorwerk). Good luck, it shouldn't be that hard of a sell, we're a pretty likeable bunch.

This year "Take a Kid Fishing" will be on Sunday, June 7. I had told many of you it was the following weekend. That is the wrong date, so correct your calendars. Fishing will be from 1 PM to 4 PM. Anyone with a boat is encouraged to partici-

See "President" continued on next page

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"President" continued from previous page

pate. This year we will be opening it to the general public, and let me tell you the response has been super. Joe's Camper will donate bait, Randall's foods will donate rods and reels, chips, buns, and New Ulm Wholesale, hot dogs and beans, McDonald's, Hardee's and Hy-Vee are already on the list and it is growing. Look for this new format to be very successful. Every child must have an adult fishing buddy along. Signup will be at Randall's

and Hy-Vee and anyone without a fishing buddy or anyone who wants to be a fishing buddy can sign up there and get matched up. New Ulm Bus Lines have been contacted about transportation to Clear Lake for those who do not wish to drive, or don't have a ride. This new format allows many people to participate who have had no opportunity to do so before, and serves the original intent of the "Take a Kid Fishing" ideals.

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