



# The New Ulm Area Sports Fishermen's **NEWSLETTER**

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## **FISHING SEASON NEVER ENDS**

*By Chris Kavanaugh*

Now that the walleye, northern pike and bass season has closed there's no reason to let all your fishing equipment sit idle until May. The walleye and northern pike season doesn't open on inland waters until May 9, the bass season isn't open until May 30. That sounds like a long time, and it is!

You could go to one of the border waters like Lake of the Woods, the walleye season is open until April 14. Heck, it's only seven hours, one way, from New Ulm. Or you could go over to the Mississippi River, there the walleye season is open

continuously.

There's a lot more to Minnesota fishing than walleye, northern pike and bass. What about panfish? You know, bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed and rock bass.

If you enjoy catching these kinds of fish you're not alone. In fact, anglers catch about 20 panfish to every one walleye. Most of us probably got our introduction to fishing by catching a sunfish.

Other than smallmouth bass and trout, sunfish and crappies are pound-for-pound the sportiest fish to catch. As far as I'm concerned they are also the best tasting.

Equipment is usually no problem for late winter panfish angling. You usually don't need much which is good because driving on the ice at this time of the year can be a real danger. It should be nice enough that a house isn't needed. You probably don't want to mess with a fish house anyway because you'll want to move around the lake. If you're lucky you won't even have to drill a hole.

As the weather starts getting nicer and the days are longer there are few places I'd rather be than out on a lake fishing sunnies.

## **New License Needed March 1**

Remember to get your new fishing license before March 1. This includes your shelter license. Don't wait until you're ready to go fishing, do it now while you're thinking of it. Every year there are a number of people that forget to buy new licenses and have to waste valuable fishing time to stop and buy the license. Licenses are available from the County and many businesses around town.

License fees for 1992 are the same as in 1991, with the exception of the non-resident individual and family licenses. Some people complain

about the cost but I like to put in perspective.

For a \$13.00 fishing license I can catch 840 northern pike; 1,680 walleye; 1,680 largemouth bass; 5,475 crappies; and 10,950 sunfish. That works out to a cost per fish of \$0.00063! And that's not including all the perch, catfish, ...

This scenario assumes that I fish every day, catch my limit every day, and every day eat all the fish I catch. Realistically though, \$13.00 is one case of beer or a large pizza or two movie tickets, not much.

## **NUASF Club Calendar**

**Meeting:**

**February 27, 7:30PM**

**Turner Hall**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Jane Starz - Brown**

**County Recycling**

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# Editorial

Garbage. Who is responsible for it? The last several weeks as I have been out on the lake I have noticed an awful lot of trash that has just been thrown on the ice. Most people will look at it and say how terrible it is for someone to dirty the lake this way. Then they will walk on by it. At times I have been guilty of this myself. We need to start cleaning up our act, so to speak. Even though you or I did not throw the garbage there, we need to start picking it up. What is laying on the ice now will end up the bottom of the lake or along the shore in spring, making it that much harder to clean up. There will always be that one person in a group who thinks it is all right to just throw the trash on the ice. If we keep the lake clean maybe people will start getting the idea and take their garbage off the lake and dispose of it properly.

## Membership Dues

The Club will no longer be sending notices when are due to renew your membership. You may not have noticed in our last newsletter that your renewal date is in the upper right hand corner of the address label. We need you to send your

dues in because this is where the club gets 75% of its operating funds. Some of you may feel that you do not want to renew because you have not been able to attend meetings or help out at Club Functions. We still need your support, our Club cannot survive without you. Your renewals can be sent to my address or paid at the next meeting.

Thank you. Mike Deinken

# From the President

To say I was surprised at the honor that was bestowed on me recently (the Meritorious Service Award from the DNR) would be a slight understatement. I found myself very humbled at the whole affair. The award is this club's award, along with my wife and son who have given much to the entire effort. So I would just offer my thanks to everyone who worked on all the projects and really make this club a joy to be a part of.

Our March meeting will be dedicated to plans and input for the SCCMR convention in September. We need to formulate things now so it can be properly promoted and assure success in reaching more

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people than we did last year. I am sure it will be as classy as last years and plum full of fun. In the meantime talk to people and make them aware that there is a Minnesota River and that it is a pretty place that needs help.

The Ice Fishing Contest was a whopping success. Jerry Carlson deserves credit for his work at the food part of the contest, Hats Off! KNUJ disc jockey and NUASF member Brian Filzen was a part of the reason we had so many people. I don't want to forget anyone else who worked hard on this, so you know who you are the Club owes its thanks.

The Minne Con Park Wetland Restoration is now a reality. The New Ulm City Council unanimously

approved funding for it. Now all that is left for us to do is a little work on it. Those interested in the time it will take to see this through can sign at the next meeting. The work will probably not take more than a Saturday.

Membership continues to grow. Lonnie Havemeier and Gayln Schnobrich are two new members that I signed up and I am sure there will be more at our February meeting. This shows that we continue to grow because people are interested in having a little fun and yet doing some positive things for water quality and fish habitat.

A footnote - Lonnie is our Club Secretary/Treasurer's next door neighbor, one Mike Deinken.

## Clear Lake Update

The aeration system has been working very well, as you may have noticed from the newspaper. A car and snowmobile have gone through thin ice caused by high winds out of the North. The wind seems to push the water under the ice until it runs into the shore. Then it seems to be deflected to either side eroding the ice from underneath. If you are going out on the Lake from the public access, be extremely careful. You can't tell one day from the next where the ice is going to be safe.

Twice this winter several members and myself had to get together

and put together more Thin Ice signs. So far this winter we have made fifty signs and they are all on the lake right now. A special thanks to those of you who took the time to help make them and put them out on the lake.

The oxygen level at Clear lake has been holding in the 5.0 to 6.0 range, which is fairly good. There have been reports of some pretty nice bass being caught along with a lot of small walleyes. Remember, if you are going out on the ice be very careful.



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# Fishing Ethics

Fishing in Minnesota has become so popular that many lakes are now overcrowded. As fishing pressure continues to grow, the DNR offers these suggestions to make fishing fair and safe for all anglers.

- Don't litter monofilament fishing line, net fragments, styrofoam, plastic bags, six pack holders and other plastics which can kill fish and wildlife that eat or get tangles up in these products.
- Prepare your boat and trailer before you are on the ramp so that you can launch quickly and efficiently.
- If you witness someone violating fishing, hunting, or boating laws, report them to a conservation officer or call Turn in Poachers (TIP) at (800) 652-9093.
- Ask for permission before entering private land. Landowners have the right to grant or refuse access. If you get permission, avoid dwellings, livestock areas and crops. If you open a gate, close it behind you. Showing respect for landowners could open the door to more fishing privileges.
- Keep only the amount of fish you can use.
- Don't motor through wild rice or other aquatic vegetation which provides habitat for fish and wildlife.

The Minnesota DNR



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