



Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Official Newsletter of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

JULY 1993

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 7

RIVER COALITION GETS US INTERIOR AWARD

Reprinted from the New Ulm Journal

NEW ULM—Sportsmen's Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River has been awarded a 1992-93 Volunteer Service Award by the US Department of the Interior.

The award is given by the Interior Department through its Take Pride in America program. Sportsmens Coalition was credited "for outstanding commitment to the stewardship of America's public lands and natural and cultural resources."

Sportsmen's Coalition President Scott Sparlin recently received a letter of congratulations and award certificate from Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

"Your leadership contributes measurably toward making the American community and landscape, respectively, as strong and beautiful as possible," Babbitt stated. "In a nation as diverse as ours, local initiative is essential—and efforts like yours are the key."

Among other things, Sportsmen's Coalition conducts two yearly cleanups in New Ulm along the banks of the Minnesota River, hosts the annual Minnesota River Rally and Convention, and works to promote the Minnesota River and fishing. Sparlin has been featured several times on Minneapolis television station KARE's Minnesota Bound outdoors reports.

While the Coalition is being honored with the recognition and certificate, it will not be getting a trip to Washington for an awards ceremony. In the past awards ceremonies were held, but the Take Pride in America program is being discontinued by the Interior Department, which faces the budgetary ax.

"It is our strong hope that the Take Pride in America approach will continue as a private sector enterprise—which was one of the goals of the program's founders; and with proven success stories like yours, this may now be more likely," Babbitt wrote.

REPRINT OF THE LETTER RECEIVED BY THE SCCMR.

Dear Mr. Sparlin:

On behalf of the President and the Department of the Interior, I want to congratulate you on your fine volunteer

work in service to our country. Your leadership contributes measurably toward making the American community and landscape, respectively, as strong and as beautiful as possible. In a nation as diverse as ours, local initiative is essential—and efforts like yours are the key.

The enclosed Certificate is provided to you with my deep appreciation and gratitude for a job well done. It is a reflection of the importance of your work as well as the success of your efforts.

In the past, award ceremonies have been held to celebrate winners of these Certificates. This year, we will not be hosting a ceremony because the Take Pride in America program is being discontinued. This was a difficult decision to make, but there were important reasons for doing so. The Department's budget is pressed by a backlog of maintenance problems at our National Parks and by a compelling need to better manage our Natural resources. Our new budget requests reflect these needs. Given the great work you have undertaken in support of these kinds of initiatives, I know you will appreciate how hard the decision was. But given your work to keep America beautiful, I know you will also appreciate the choices we have made.

It is our strong hope that the Take Pride in America approach will continue as a private sector enterprise—which was one of the goals of the program's founders; and, with proven success stories like yours, this may now be more likely. More importantly, we believe that efforts like yours will continue to flourish. The success of your program will inspire other groups and individuals to develop similar vehicles through which the spirit of Take Pride in America can thrive and its objectives be furthered.

Again, let me offer my sincere congratulations. Thank you for setting an outstanding example of community leadership.

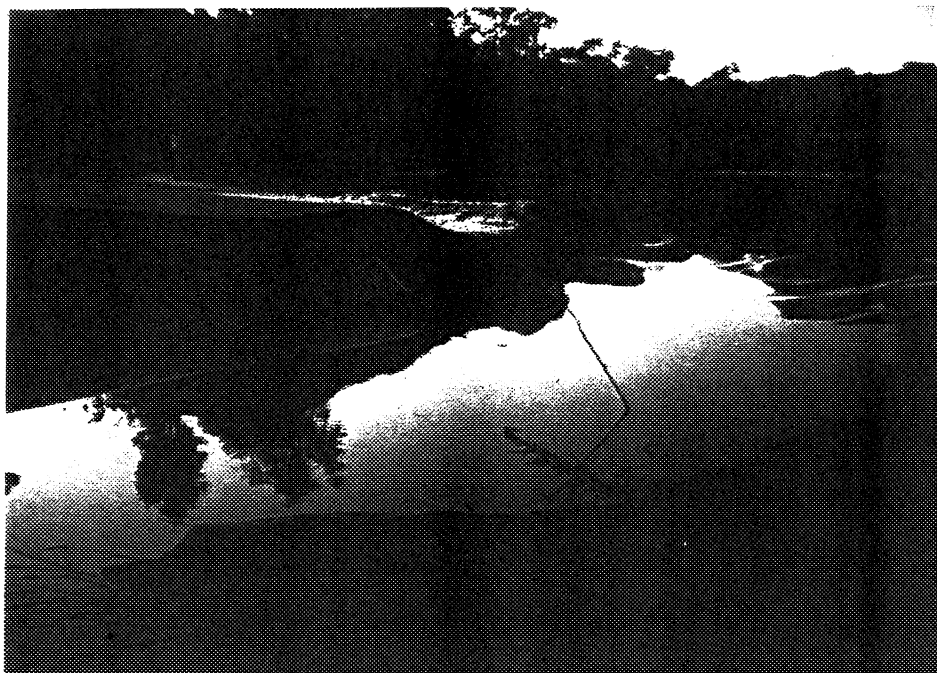
Sincerely,
Bruce Babbitt

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EDITORIAL

MIKE DEINKEN

As you may know by now, one of the best fishing spots in southern Minnesota has been rendered unfishable all year so far. I'm talking about the Minnesota River. Can anyone remember the river being out of its banks for as long as it has been this year? I though I had seen the worst flooding in 1965. That year was nothing compared to this year. My son and I have only gotten to fish it once when it was almost back in its banks. Its not been back to that stage since that time. Sure we have had some heavy rains, quite often at times. You expect the river to come up some after a lot of

rain. But this is clearly out of control. It's only going to get worse. Our farms and cities have gotten too efficient at getting rid of their rain water. Cities are upgrading and enlarging their storm sewers. It can be very dangerous to be near an outlet on the river during or shortly after a heavy rain storm. The same holds true with todays farms. Their tiling methods are so advanced and enlarged that in no time at all the rain water is discharged into the drainage ditches and creeks. This is where the problem lies. I'm not against them for wanting to get rid of the rain water. Just the speed with which they are getting the job done. Wetlands used to hold the water back and give it time to seep away slowly. Now everything goes to a ditch or large storm sewer drain and then right to the river. In recent weeks, most



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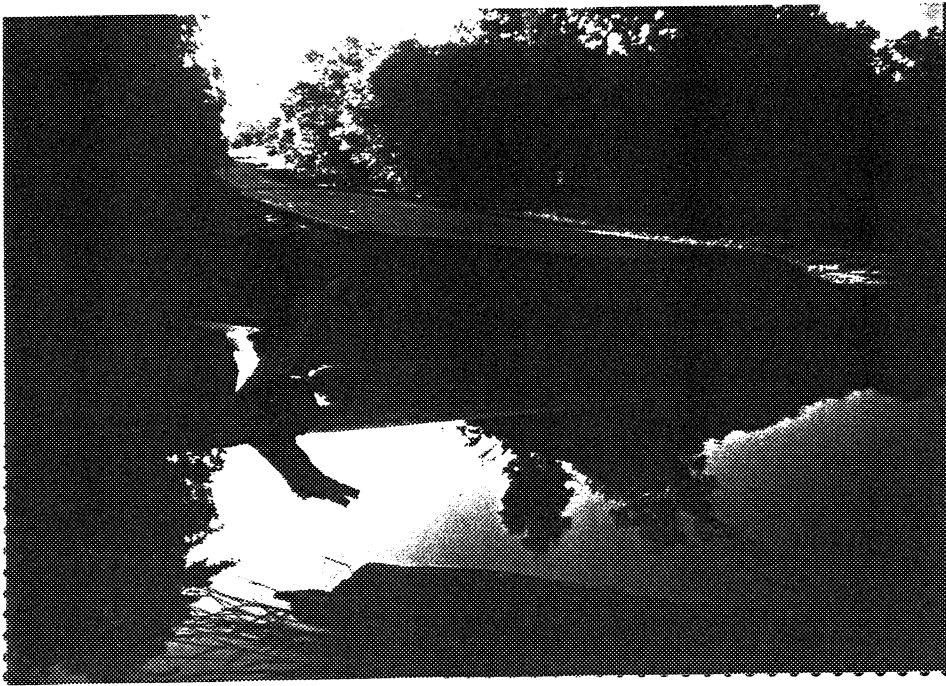
The *Hook, Line, and Sinker* is published monthly by Chris Vorwerk and John Vorwerk for the New Ulm Area Sports Fishermen. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely that of the respective writers and are not to be construed as the opinion of the NUASF or its members.

Send all correspondence and submissions to:

Mike Deinken, Editor
 1022 N. Spring St.
 New Ulm, MN 56073

NUASF Board

Pres. Scott Sparlin 359-2346
 V.P. Jerry Carlson 354-8869
 Sec./Treas. ... Mike Deinken 359-9650
 Board Mem. . Randy Griebel 354-8461



of us have seen what this can do. The Robinson Creek received so much water after a recent storm that it overflowed the Bottom Road and washed it out, forcing the road to be closed. Also, there were many mudslides up and down the river bottom. We have to slow this water down as it makes it's way to our streams and rivers. One of our states representatives has gone on record saying there is not enough Federal money available to fix our problems. Do we have to make this a giant project by trying to do it all at once? Why not do a small portion at a time. The technology to undertake this type of project surely must exist. I am tired of seeing this swollen, dirty, and polluted river run through my town. The time to act is now. Before it's too late.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

SCOTT SPARLIN

As a club we offer our deepest sympathy to members Robert Berg Jr.



and Randy Berg at the loss that their family has recently suffered. Our hearts go out to you and hope that with time good memories will fill your thoughts of Marion and all that she meant to you.

Club Membership continues to grow and at our last meeting 3 new members signed up. Our new club house office was filled with the smell of burgers and we sold enough stuff to raise about 70 dollars, after the meeting.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Rummage/Bake sale scheduled for Saturday August 21st. Jerry Carlson will once again be coordinating the sale. It will be held at the Randall's Garden Center which Randall's is donating thanks to Jerry Carlson. Many things are needed, clothes are the least of the items that we need, Bikes, toys, tools, odds and ends sell better.

The day after we have scheduled for the club picnic at Lake Hanska. Bring a dish to pass and Hot dogs will be provided.

It is getting closer all the time to the big River Convention and Rally on September 11th at Riverside Park in New Ulm. This year we will run only one day



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and there is no admission. As in the past NUASF will do the labor for the day so if you can volunteer your efforts on behalf of the SCCMR which we founded, please contact myself or Mike Deinken.

Many of you have read of the award the SCCMR received from the US Interior. In the past, 2 representatives of the group that was a winner of this award would have been hosted at Washington DC for ceremonies. But, due to budget cuts, that has all been discontinued, with the hope that private interests will continue the program.

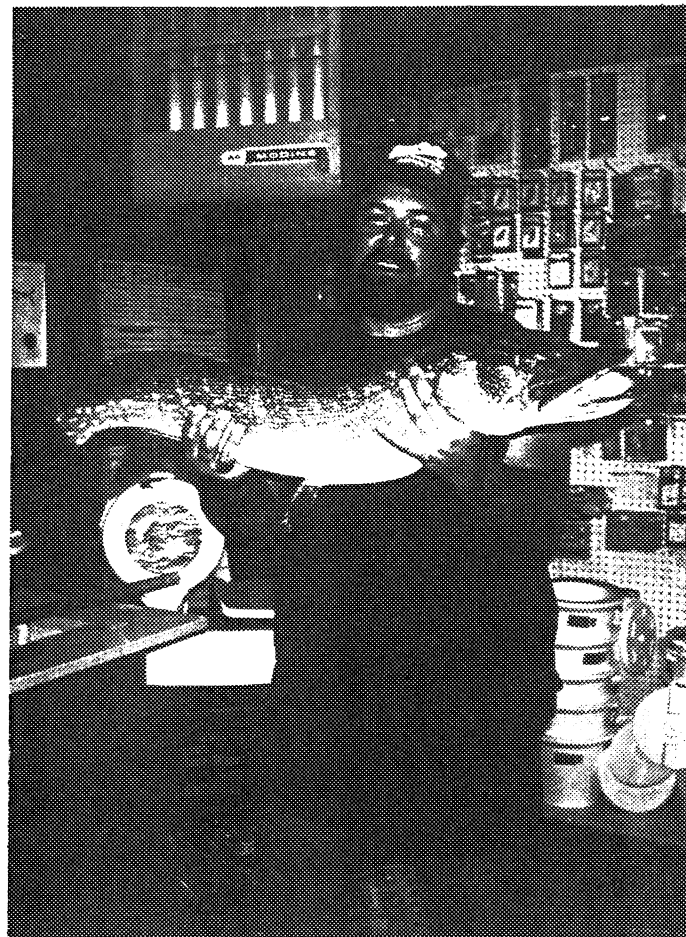
Don't forget our storm sewer labeling/awareness project that will be done with the Girl Scouts on the evening of Tuesday, July 27th. We will be meeting at Riverside Park at 5:30 PM. First we will have some pizza and pop, then we will tackle painting some of New Ulm's storm sewers.

FROM THE SECRETARY

MIKE DEINKEN

FISH STORY?

Is this the first one of the season? Can we really believe there was a 14lb 5oz Northern swimming past Jerry Carlson's dock? This fish must have been mentally deranged or blind, or maybe both, to have taken his bait. Can we believe his witness, on Don "Juan" Thorn? How did these two characters end up on the same dock at Lake Koronis? I don't



know, it's kind or hard to believe, but there are pictures so I guess all I can say is, way to go Jerry.

RUMMAGE SALE

The Club will again be having a rummage sale to raise funds for operating expenses. This year we will be holding the sale a Randall's Garden Center instead of the fairgrounds. Randall's was good enough to let us use the building free of charge. The sale will be held on Saturday, August 21st. We need you members to help the club out by donating for this sale. Start setting items aside now. We will be setting up for the sale Friday evening from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. We will also be holding a bake sale in conjunction with the rummage sale. We tried this for the first time last year and it worked out very well.

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Bake sale item should be brought the morning of the sale. We need your support to make this project a success. More household and hardware items would be appreciated and less clothing. Please make sure that the goods you donate are in good condition and are something that we can sell. We don't want to give the club a bad reputation by having article displayed that are clearly better off being thrown away. Let's make this sale a huge success. Try to put something aside for our sale.

CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

Summer is upon us and Clear Lake is going into it's Summer mode. The lake is almost completely choked with weeds. Under these conditions the fish are very hard to locate and even harder to catch. It is also very frustrating to fishermen out there trying to snag a couple of those big sunfish. This may be the saving grace for Clear Lake. With the fish so hard to catch, fishing pressure on the lake should fall off and save a good number of fish to spawn again next spring.

THE CONTENTS OF YOUR STORY BE GUIDED THUSLY

Fishermen are legendary liars, as in the old saw, "All fishermen are liars except me and you, and I'm not so sure about you." Most of these lies, though, aren't mean spirited, so much as slightly fractured stretchings meant to improve the quality of the day. If, after all, a tree falls on no one in the forest, who is harmed? So much the better if a fishing tale harms no man but delights many.

Famous 19th century fisherman and writer Isaak Walton believed that a fabrication here and there lent characteristic charm to the sport. Walton advised:

"The contents of your story be guided thusly: expand, but do not entirely invent. It is blasphemy and pure folly to usurp the role of the creator and cause to appear upon the waters some imaginary monster which, perchance,

snatched away your pole, made mince meat of your leggings, mouthed a pony, and bore away your luggage on its back. But if you gently take one of his trout, and in a spirit of generous indulgence cause it to gain a foot or two of extra measure in the course of telling, you will have the favor of your listeners..."

Old Isaak even addressed how to tell the tale:

"And when you prepare to spin out a tale, see that your hands do not tremble, nor your eyes dart to and fro, and do not permit your hands to wander hither and thither, but hold one carelessly over your heart, as if proclaiming and oath, and the other open in front of you, as if to say, 'See, I conceal nothing.'"

CLUB BOAT

Our club is the recipient of a generous donation from Terry Slander. He has given us a fifteen foot aluminum boat with an eighteen horse motor and trailer. Phil and John Vorwerk did an excellent job putting our Club logo and name on the sides of the boat (see picture on the back page). We have already put it to good use picking up thin ice signs this spring at Clear Lake. The New Ulm Water Department also used the boat in sandbagging operations when floodwaters from the Minnesota River threatened several of their wells. I have recently received word from Ron Marquardt, Water Department Supervisor, that we will be reimbursed from the city for the use of the boat. We have had several members ask about using the boat for their own personal pleasure. We have decided to let members have the use of the boat for local trips. We will be doing this on a trial basis to see how it works out. As the boat is taken care of, and kept clean and returned with a full tank of gas, we will continue allowing members to use the boat. This will be on a first come first served basis. Anyone wishing to use the boat, contact Mike Deinken.

JULY MEETING

At our July meeting we will have a

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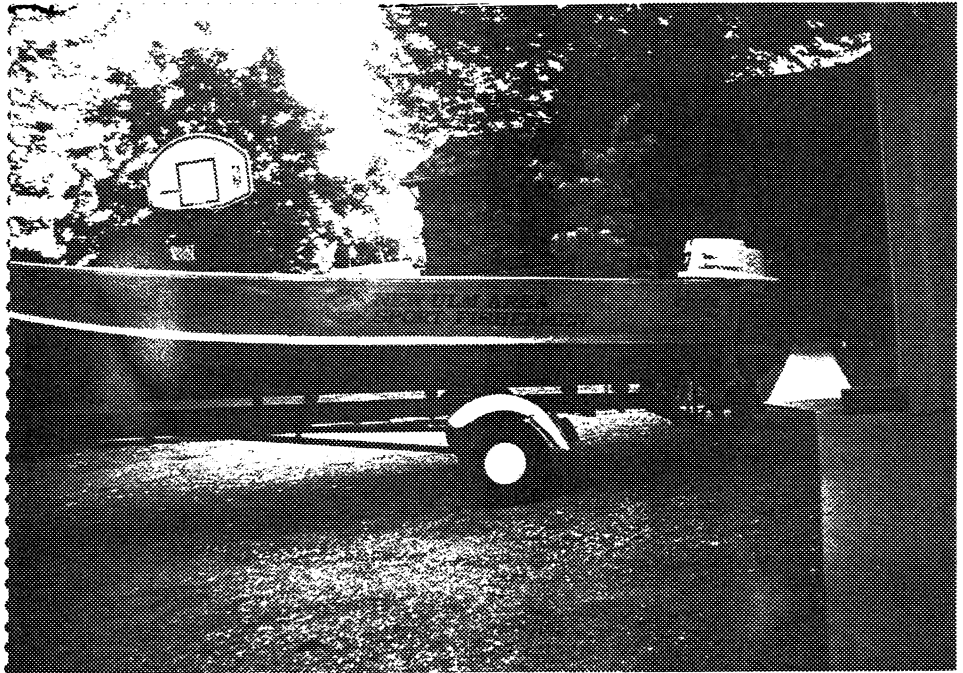


Ken & Char Fischer
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McDonald's
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guest speaker. Hugh Valient of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources from Waterville, will be here to lead some discussion on Clear Lake's aeration system. We hope to see a lot of you at this meeting as this discussion is very important to us.

CLUB CALENDAR

- JULY 27 5:30 PM STORM SEWER STENCILING AT RIVERSIDE PARK
- JULY 29 7:30 PM MEETING AT SCHELL'S TAP ROOM WITH GUEST SPEAKER
- AUG 20 6:00 PM RUMMAGE SALE SETUP AT RANDALL'S GARDEN CENTER
- AUG 21 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE
- AUG 22 12:30 PM CLUB PICNIC AT LAKE HANSKA COUNTY FAIRY



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