



Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Official Newsletter of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

JUNE 1993

VOLUME 2

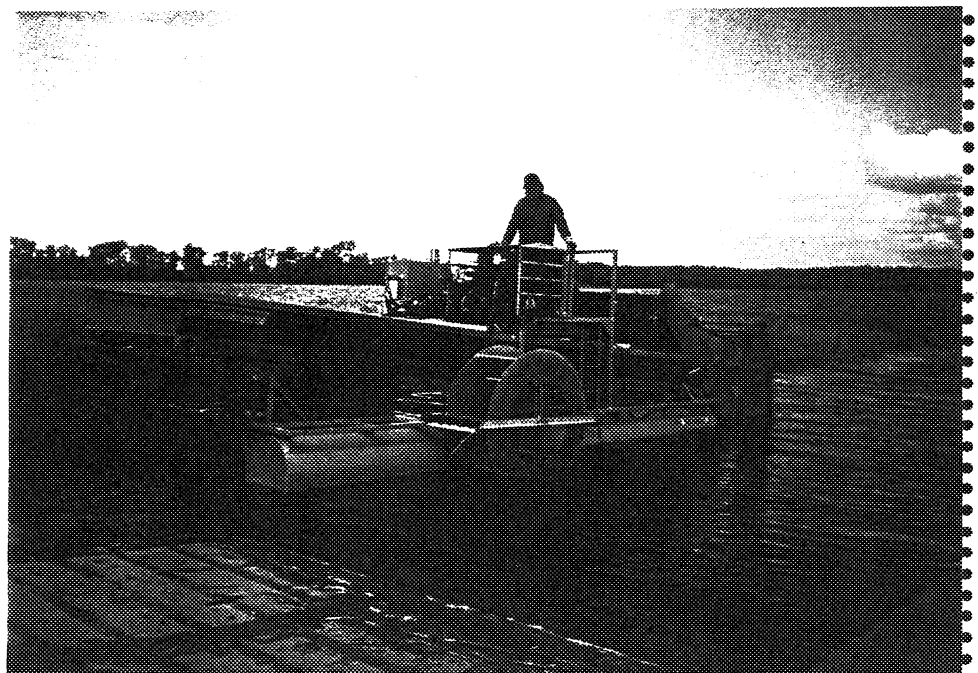
ISSUE 6

CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

The water level continues to rise due to the heavy rains we have been experiencing this spring. The lake seems to be in excellent shape. The water is very clear and there is an abundance of forage present along the shoreline. The other day the area around the boat ramp was almost black with tadpoles. Reports of the size of most fish being caught is really encouraging. Crappies and sunfish have been running up to a pound, with that being pretty much the average size. There are many small bass being caught, which means last years hatch must have been very good. A few walleyes are being caught and they have been about a pound to a pound and a half. There have been some reports that the fish don't taste quite right. This may be due to the high nutrient content of the lake.

Some of the weeds along the shore at the County Park were due to be removed earlier this spring. An aquatic harvester from Roseville was

on the lake and tried to do the removal, but was unable to complete the job due to the size of the vegetation. Other possibilities have been discussed. They include removal by a drag line, killing with a herbicide, and hand removal. As of this writing no decision has been made, but hopefully it can be taken care of yet this summer. If you get a chance to get out to the lake and do some fishing, have a good time. But remember, take your waste home with you.



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TAKE A KID FISHING

This years event, which was scheduled for June 12th, was cancelled due to the extremely high winds that afternoon. After all the work and planning that went into this, it was a big letdown to have to call it off. I would like to thank the members that came to help that day.

CLUB PICNIC

We are planning on having a club picnic again this year. Last years picnic turned out to be an enjoyable experience for those who attended. It will again be held at the Lake Hanska County Park by the fishing pier. This gives the kids a chance to do some fishing while the adults visit. It is a beautiful setting for a family outing. This years picnic will be held on August 22nd, starting at about 12:30 PM. You have plenty of advance notice on this one, so keep the date open for an enjoyable afternoon with a great bunch of people.

TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON HATCHERIES?

A fishery manager watches an irate resort owner drive away. The resorter wanted walleyes stocked in his lake, a lake that would not long support walleyes. The manager's efforts to explain natural reproduction, exploitation, harvest, year-class variability, and recruitment had fallen on deaf ears. The resorter had stormed out, threatening to call the governor. The manager wondered at the lack of progress fisheries



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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.

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professionals have made in communicating sound fisheries principles to the public. Meanwhile, the assistant manager was beginning his third hatchery tour of the day for a school group. The jar of eggs and big brood fish intrigue youngsters.

These scenarios will continue until fishery professionals realistically assess the long term costs of the way they do business. When the most significant public relations effort is a hatchery tour, the fishery manager has probably conveyed these messages: (1) fish come from hatcheries; (2) habitat degradation is so severe that naturally spawning populations are inadequate or no longer exist; and (3) long term health of fisheries depends on hatchery technology. Fishery professionals are quick to talk about the value of habitat protection, watershed management, and preserving the genetic integrity of the native stocks. But when was the last time a school group was given a tour that emphasized habitat and genetic diversity?

It's easy to give hatchery tours. They get great reviews and give fishery programs visibility. The long term costs, however, far exceed the dollars and cents of a cost-to-benefit analysis. The true cost appears later when the child has taken over his parent's resort, a poor year of fishing cuts profits, and he remembers the field trip to the hatchery. Is it so amazing that the resorter won't accept the fishery manager's reasons for not stocking the fish? Well managed stocking programs have a place in fishery management, but only as they fit within a sound ecological plan that considers the integrity of the resource. Hatchery programs are not an excuse to accept habitat loss or poor management. They treat the symptoms rather than remedy the problem. Our resources need cures, not painkillers.

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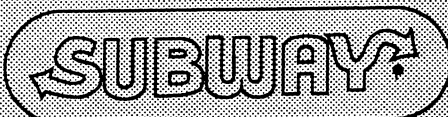
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EDITORIAL

I recently had a conversation with an old friend and sometime fishing companion. It seems that he had just returned from his annual Canadian fishing trip. It was a great trip, of course. The weather was perfect, they caught an almost unbelievable number of walleyes, and the bugs weren't hungry. He also happened to catch a twenty plus northern, which he decided to bring home as a trophy. This may be every fisherman's dream, to some day catch a trophy fish. One to hang on the wall and show to a friend or two. While this may have been an acceptable practice twenty or even ten years ago, times have changed. A fish of trophy proportions is usually a female. When you take a trophy female out of the lake you leave a big hole in the reproductive chain. A fish that size produces many thousands of young every year. The genetics that allowed that fish to become a trophy in the first place were taken out of the breeding grounds. It could take fifteen to twenty years to replace that one fish and the hundreds of thousands of fish that it would have produced.

Catching a trophy fish can be the thrill of a lifetime. An experience you may never forget. It doesn't have to end with the killing of a fish producing machine. There are many other ways to capture the thrill of a lifetime. Most everyone carries a camera with them. Take a picture. Take twenty pictures. Weigh it, measure it. If you really need a trophy hanging on the wall, you can have a reproduction made from your photos and measurements for about the same cost as having the actual fish mounted. After you have captured the trophy on film, be sure and gently return it to the water. The sooner you do, the better it's chance for survival. Remember, we have to leave something for our children.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 24th, our regular meeting night. This will kick off our '93 membership drive and will be our first meeting in our new office club room. Go light on supper or don't eat at all, because Tami Waller has donated her ground venison for a feeding frenzy that evening. Quarter pound burgers with all the trimmings and side dishes for nominal fee, to help us raise some bucks (get it?). So bring a friend or prospective member and let's have a good time and see if we can sign up a few new members that evening. For everyone who doesn't know where our new office club room is, the address is 6 1/2 South Minnesota Street right next to the Southside Pub. Enter, go up the stairs, and turn right.

Next, I would like to mention two items of note for next month. First is our storm drain awareness program. It kicks off next month with a drain painting session involving us, and the girl scouts of New Ulm. The date is the last Tuesday of July, on the 27th in the evening. It starts out with pizza at 5:30 PM and the painting begins a 6:30 PM. NUASF will be the adult advisors, and we will also get help from the troop leaders. We will wrap things up about 8:30 PM. Other painting sessions will be planned later.

Next, let's talk about Robot Boxing. That's right, Robot Boxing. Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 24th starting in the early afternoon. Proceeds from this event will go to the Minnesota River clean up efforts. It will all take place at the Southside Pub in New Ulm. You can take a turn at knocking the snot out of someone not harm a hair on their head. This event was featured on KSTPs "Good Company" and a video will be shown on the event at the next meeting. It looks like a blast.

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