



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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

MILLE LACS FISHING TRIP

From January 21st through the 23rd, a hardy group, mostly club members, made their annual trek north to Mille Lacs Lake. There were twenty adventurous souls who set forth that Friday afternoon in search of the wily walleye. Little did they know that the fish would again get the best of them. For two days and nights they tried everything in their little tackle boxes in hopes of enticing an "eye" to bite. It was not to be. This was so hard on the determined and battle tested group, that it forced most, if not all, to turn to the bottle for solace and comfort. It was a disheartened crew that climbed aboard the bus for the long, empty handed trip home. By the time we arrived in New Ulm, all bad memories of the trip had been forgotten and there was already much talk of next year's trip. I have but one question, "Who ever heard of smoked perch?"

TIP LINE

A biting fish may drop your bait if it feels the tug of a heavy bobber, so always use the lightest practical float you can.

Tight ankle-fitting boots will slide on much easier if you put a piece of waxed paper behind your heel when the boot is half on. A small patch of waxed paper around the heel, but under the outer sock, will also prevent blisters.

When dressing for frigid weather, remember that captured air space provides the most warmth with the least weight. That's why wool insulates better than cotton, and why two pairs of medium-weight socks keep feet warmer than one pair of heavyweight type.

No matter how careful you try to be, you will sustain toothcuts if you unhook winter-caught pike or walleye with stiff, cold fingers. You can avoid this by using needlenose pliers. Wrap the handles with tape or cord so they won't be slippery.

CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

The ice has thickened, making travel on Clear Lake fairly safe. Along with this we have accumulated a considerable amount of snow, causing some problems with getting around even if you have four wheel drive. I should know, since I have been stuck several times in the last two weeks. The snow has caused another problem. It has blocked out sunlight, which has caused oxygen levels to drop severely. The aeration system was started on January 25th. Since then we have seen the oxygen level turn around and start to climb. Hopefully we got it started early enough to prevent any winterkill. The fishing has been hit or miss. One day they will bite pretty good

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and the next several days you can catch nothing. The sunfish I caught were of respectable size and tasted pretty good. There have been some reports of many small sunfish and crappie being caught. I think this is just it must mean we had a very good hatch this past spring. But where are the walleye? I don't know. I have heard of only a few being caught all winter. Maybe there is too much forage in the lake for them to bother with some of the silly things we are dropping through the ice and hoping they will bite on. When you head out to the lake remember, be careful and take your garbage home with you.

**WHAT'S IN
 A NAME**

Anyone who wishes to understand what draws thousands of boaters to the sea need only take a look at the most popular names boat owners bestowed upon their craft in 1993. According to the annual survey conducted by the Boat Owners Association of the United States. Serenity was the most popular name for the second straight year, and the names that round out the top ten reveal that relaxation, excitement, and even psychoanalysis can be found on the water. Furthermore, boaters are quite fanatical about spending time on the water. The Boat Owners Association of the United States, Boat Graphics Department, which produces boat lettering for the association's 460,000 members, keeps a yearly record of



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the most requested names. The ten most popular names for 1993 are:

1. Serenity
2. Obsession
3. Osprey
4. Fantasea
5. Therapy
6. Liquid Asset
7. Seaduction
8. Happy Hours
9. Solitude
10. Wet Dream

EDITORIAL

Last month you may have noticed a short article concerning the Fishing Roundtables I attended in early January. Just so you don't think that all we did is sit around and swap fishing stories, I would like to give you a little more information about this gathering.

At previous roundtables, in which the Section of Fisheries has invited anglers, guides, lake association representatives, resorters, tackle industry leaders, outdoor writers, fish farmers, and legislators to discuss the future of fishing in Minnesota. Participants shared knowledge and aired opinions-and their ideas are now being incorporated into state fisheries management. The roundtable talks help the DNR focus fisheries management and plan for the future.

Previous studies showing a gradual long-term decline in Minnesota's fishing quality led to,-the first Fishing Roundtable in 1991. About 50 people representing a wide range of interest groups were invited. Despite differing viewpoints, participants recognized their common commitment to fishing and agreed to respect each

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other's views. At the roundtable discussions, guided by facilitators not associated with the DNR, participants picked three top issues: the need for more habitat improvement; the importance of tailoring fish management to individual waters; and the need for more public education on fishing, aquatic biology, and fisheries.

Following the first roundtable, the Fisheries Section held a series of public meetings statewide. Generally, those who attended the meeting agreed with the roundtable recommendations. At the second and third Roundtables, participants discussed ways to resolve conflicts, reduce public opposition to DNR proposals, and encourage more public involvement. Though many anglers agree that fish are getting smaller, just a few naysayers can halt regulations intended to increase fish size. Roundtable participants encouraged the DNR to generate public support by clearly demonstrating the biological need for a new regulation, and to do it before the regulation is on the lake.

Specific issues, such as exotic species, fish stocking, and license fee increases were the topics discussed at the fourth roundtable this past January in St. Cloud. Also members of the state's American Indian tribes, which have become increasingly active in fisheries issues, were invited to attend. Not everyone agrees, but everyone gets a chance to talk and be heard. If a particular group has a problem, they can bring it to the roundtable. I hope the DNR will continue to host roundtables, because the meetings allow fisheries managers and the angling public to bridge a gap often separating the two. I'm convinced if the roundtable keeps going, it will do good things for the quality of fishing in Minnesota.

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From The President

As you can see by the calendar of events we are having our next meeting in Courtland, at the Crow Bar, in the basement. We have talked for some time about having meetings in other places because we are the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen. So let's call this the beginning of our "Outreach" program. This is an excellent opportunity for us to grow as a group and give those in the surrounding area a greater understanding of what we are all about. We will experiment with this approach and continue to have meetings on an alternating basis in other communities surrounding the New Ulm Area, as long as we see the benefits from them. Personally I am excited about the prospect of getting a greater involvement from those people that share our interest and concerns with the sport of fishing, plus it's a lot of fun getting to know like minded people in other areas. The exchange of ideas that will undoubtedly take place should raise new awareness with all of us. I look forward to it.

There will be bus service provided by New Ulm Bus Lines to all of these meetings. There will be one pick up point, the bus lines parking lot. See you there!

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CLUB CALENDAR

February 24th
Meeting-Crow Bar, Courtland
 7:30 PM
Bus Leaves New Ulm 7:00 PM from Bus Garage

March 31st
Meeting-Schell's Tap Room
 7:30 PM

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