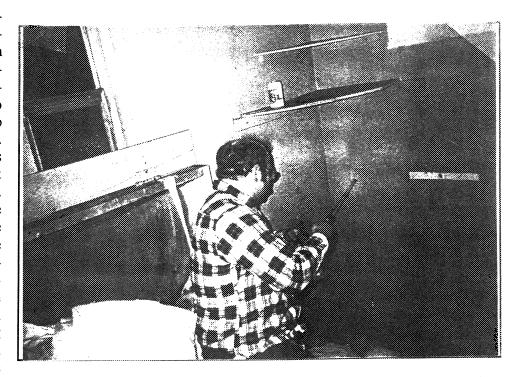
Hook, Line, and Sinker

November 1994 Volume 3 Issue 11

The Official Newsletter of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

ICE FISHING TRIP

Last meeting we were to look at different options as to where we will be going for this years trip. Only one location was given to us, and it sounded like something that would appeal to us. It was tentatively agreed on by those members who were present. We have set the fishing trip for the weekend of January 20-22, 1995. Since that meeting another possibility has been brought to our attention. The first location discussed would be to Leech Lake. The houses that we would be using are similar to what we have been using at Mille Lacs Lake. We would be sleeping in the houses and there would be accommodations for cooking meals. The second option is to Lake Winnibigoshish. Here the houses would not be sleepers, cabins would be provided on shore along with cooking facilities. This year we have set 24 as a limit to the number of people who will be



going. This will be on a first come, first serve basis. We will be deciding which place we will be going to at our next meeting, which will have taken place by the time you read this because of Thanksgiving, which makes our meeting a week earlier than usual. If you would like more information, it can be obtained by calling Mike Deinken at 359-9650.

CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

As you all know, this past summer we were involved in a weed removal project at the lake. Now we are working on getting sand hauled to this area to create a beach and make access from the County Park to the water easier. We have been offered free sand from a privately owned pit in the area. Now we are trying to line up trucks and drivers to get it to the lake this winter. Several members have in contact with area construction companies and the Brown County Highway Department to try and get as much of the hauling donated as possible. Creating the sand beach will allow the installation of a handicapped accessible fishing pier, which the Lost Dog and Fox Hunters Club will be purchasing. Our Club has agreed to provide a walkway across the sand, to the edge of the pier to allow access by wheelchair. With the completion of this project, Clear Lake will truly be a wonderful place to fish for all people.

LEAD UPDATE

On July 8, the public comment period closed on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed ban on the manufacture, sale, or distribution of lead fishing sinkers. An overwhelming majority of over 8,000 comments (plus 5,000 form letters) received by the EPA were in opposition to the ban, including 34 out



EDITORIAL

Another election has come and gone, and I am glad. I was getting awful tired of looking at all the garbage of peoples lawns. There are quite a few new faces sprinkled in with the old. There were some surprises and some expected results. All the politicians have been promising us the world. They are going to make big changes. Hopefully these changes are for the better. Hopefully they will follow through on at least some of their promises. As you all know, we have been hearing these promises for many years. Yet we are still waiting for some action. I, personally, am waiting for some action on the problems of the Minnesota River. The studies and surveys are all completed. Everyone agrees on what is causing these problems, but we don't seem to have any clear-cut plan on what to do to take the first step that will start the river on the road to recovery. Sure, septic systems and feed lots in the river drainage are being upgraded and brought into compliance. Local groups up and down the river are cleaning garbage and trash from the rivers banks. We still are not addressing what is possibly the Minnesota River's biggest problem, the amount and speed with which runoff enters the river is causing more problems every year. We have had so much high water the past couple of years that the river is threatening to cut new channels in quite a few locations. This will not only bypass some of the most scenic bends in the river, it will also speed up the flow, causing more erosion of the river's banks. Some people blame the high water and frequent flooding on the dam at Lac Qui Parle. I don't believe it. The dam has been in operation for many years, and the flooding has just recently become a major concern. A lot of people also blame the farmers, who seem to be putting more and more tile into the ground every year. I must say that I am of this group. Rain water no longer has anything to slow it's rush to the river. Most sloughs and pot holes have been drained. There is nothing left to slow and filter the water before it enters the river. I know there is no way that farmers will ever plug their tile lines and let the wetlands come back. There is no reason we can't come out with some way of slowing the runoff before it gets to the river. Let the tiles run, but slow the water down before it gets there, please. We, in the cities, can't do all of the finger pointing though. We are as much a part of the problem as anyone. Our storm sewers are as big a part of the problem as agricultural tiles. Oil from our streets, the excess lawn chemicals and fertilizer is flushed to the river with every rainfall. Like farmland runoff, storm sewer discharge also

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of 37 states which submitted official comments. Most respondents stated that the EPA lacked sufficient data to enact such broad sweeping measures.

The EPA has claimed that lead sinkers lost by anglers are threatening populations of water birds throughout the U.S. and must be banned. Over a 16 year period, the EPA documented fewer than 50 individual incidents from across the United States where water bird mortalities were associated with the ingestion of lead sinkers. The EPA proposal, if approved, would ban the manufacture or distribution of any sinker measuring less than 1 inch in any dimension. Furthermore, it would ban the in-home production of lead sinkers, based on the contention that it poses a health threat to the public, while continuing to allow such production of all other lead products.

In response to the proposed measures, the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) also opposed the measures on the basis of the lack of information. Although the ASA recognized that in some specific cases in limited geographic areas water birds may be detrimentally impacted by ingestion of lead sinkers lost by anglers, there is no evidence to suggest that it is a nationwide problem. Many ASA member companies manufacture environmentally safe products (including alternatives to lead sinkers) and all are staunch advocates for a healthy environment. However, ASA felt that such cavalier rule making in the absence of sound information set a dangerous precedent.

Subsequently, in a paper presented at a meeting of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development in early September, the ASA proposed alternative actions which would address concerns expressed by the EPA. Specifically, the ASA position: 1) proposes that the EPA, in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, evaluate the true extent of lead sinker induced mortality; 2) calls for consideration of a ban on the use of lead sinkers in specific areas where data are sufficient to indicate a problem; 3) calls for a nationwide educational campaign to educate the public about the dangers of improper in-home production techniques of any lead product; and 4) implores manufacturers to continue research on viable alternatives to lead sinkers.

The ASA does not expect any further action on this proposed rule for at least 12 months. However, the EPA indicated during the OECD conference their intentions to initiate action on lead sinkers in the international forum. Considering the tenuous nature of the proposed domestic rule and the highly questionable nature of the data, this action is premature and unwise. Reprinted from the ASA bulletin



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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has to be slowed and possibly filtered before it enters the river. Some sort of holding pond with a controlled discharge would possibly work here. We have been waiting patiently for years now while the surveys and studies were taking place. Now it's time for some action. I know we can't do the whole watershed at one time, but we have to start somewhere.

Mike Deinken

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

Have you ever wondered who to call when you see someone polluting our lands and water? Well, we are going to solve that problem for you. If you happen to see garbage, trash, possibly dangerous chemicals, or anything that should not be dumped on our environment, you can report the culprits by calling one of these numbers:

Capt. Randy Evans DNR 359-6000 Tom Ozzelo PCA 1-888-657-3864 or 1-612-296-7389

People have asked me; "What do I do when I see someone pour oil or antifreeze down the storm sewer?" I never really knew what to tell them. Now we all know what to say and who to call.

3M RIVER CLEANUP

On October 29th the 3M Club had their River Cleanup Day on the section of the Minnesota River that they have adopted. Several members from our club showed up to help, as the 3M Club has been very good with helping us. It was a beautiful fall day and really enjoyable to be out of doors. We removed quite a bit of troublesome debris that had obviously been there for quite sometime. After we finished, we were treated to a very good lunch, along with door prizes furnished by the 3M Club. We are not seeing quite as much trash as we first did when we started these cleanup days several years ago. We are making a difference by making people aware that there is someone out there who cares about our River.

From The President

Our own Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Deinken will be representing us and other interests of Southern Minnesota anglers at this years fishing round table at St. Cloud. If you have specific concerns that deal with angling issues, please let him know at the December meeting. This truly shapes the future of fishing in Minnesota and you do have a voice.

Your President has been selected to serve on the Oversight Committee for Minnesota fishing funding, as set up by Minnesota Statutes 97A.055, subd.4A.



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Expenditure reports for the Fish Fund and special accounts is prepared by the DNR for the Legislature by November 15th of each year as by Minnesota Law. This is appointed by the Commissioner and DNR staff is in attendance at the meetings. There are 8 members on this committee, and they are to make recommendations to the legislature and the commissioner for improvements in the management and use of money in the Game and Fish Fund. I will do my best to represent anglers concerns as to this important role, please feel free to offer input to me regarding where the money goes, and why. If you have not submitted a name for the Minnecon Wetland, please do so, it may even win you a stylish New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen jacket.

Election of Officers is at the next meeting at the Schell's Tap Room, your attendance is needed.

We will be discussing our Winter Fishing Excursion to Northern Minnesota and wrapping up our plans at the November meeting, join us for a good time. Do we want a night on the town, a banquet, or some type of mid-winter event (other than the Fishing Contest) where we have a "get to know the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen" night? Bring any ideas to the next meeting.

It appears as if there will not be a problem with the permits, for the beach creation at Clear Lake. I was told by Kristi Nixon at the Waterville office of the DNR that we should apply and that no foreseeable problems will be seen with such permits as to the DNR. Charles Nelson, NUASF Member is applying for those permits on our behalf. Thanks Chuck.

You can make the "Hook Line and Sinker" a better publication by your submission of articles. I know you have a story, write it down so we can start printing all those lies. Like the time a Muskie bit my toe when I was swimming on Deer Lake at Deer River, and I caught that same fish the following year using a plastic toe replica while trolling, yeah that it, it was twenty, no, no, forty, no no, sixty pounds, a world record, yeah, that it, a world record, but when I got him in the boat, he jumped around so much that he swamped the boat and got off. Then when I was swimming back to shore an even bigger muskie bit off part of my shoe, so next year I'm going to go trolling with a plastic shoe. True Story.

See Ya at the next meeting.

News From the SCCMR

I would like to thank all NUASF members who have helped the SCCMR this past year in any way shape or form. NUASF was the founding organization of the Coalition and continues to be instrumental in its workings. The ability for SCCMR to raise funds from the likes of the Northwest Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, and any others is contingent on our ability to raise smaller amounts which they in turn will match so we can continue to expand our horizon. As Coordinator I have this past year given countless presentations on the activities and programs the Coalition promotes. Schools are at the top of the list and we are making a difference. Combining music, talk, and Video and presenting opportunities to become involved in changing attitudes and habits is a winning combination. So if you have not had the opportunity to become a member or participate

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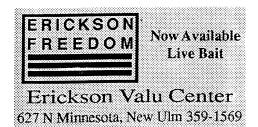
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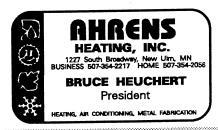




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CLUB CALENDAR

November 17th Meeting-7:30 PM Schell's Tap Room

December 29th Meeting-To be Announced

January 20-22, 1995 Undecided

I'm asking you now, If you are a friend of the River let me know, your \$5.00 membership is crucial as well as any volunteer labor when it arises. These are the necessary components to continued funding from major sources. Once again to those who helped this past year, THANK YOU!

Rivers: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

New recording by Scott Sparlin and friends. This collection of original lyrics and music, spans a wide spectrum of tastes, and includes virtually something for everyone. From the haunting bluegrass folk style of People Were Meant to be Here, to the rhythm and blues sounds of The River Cleanup Boogie, this music has captured the essence of diversity that represents our rivers and streams. So sit back, enjoy, and as you listen, ponder Our Rivers: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

Proceeds will be donated to SCCMR to further their efforts. \$12.00 Cassette \$10.00-Send check or money order to SCCMR Rivers

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