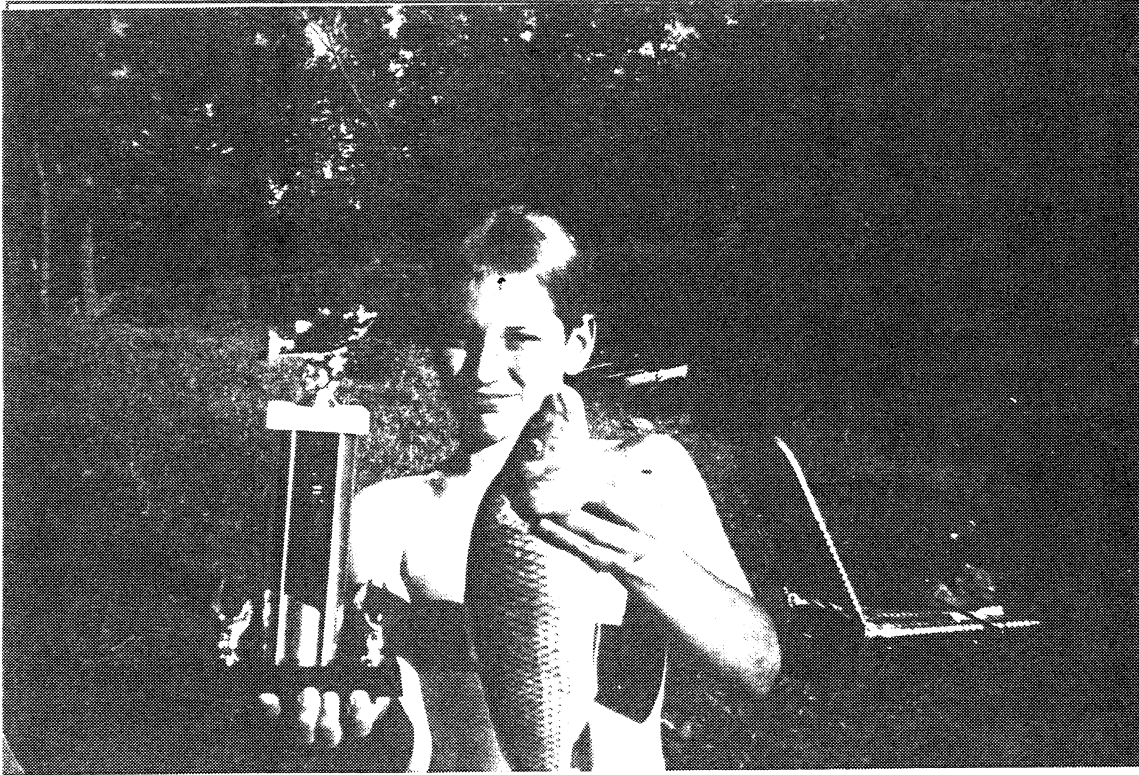




Hook, Line, and Sinker

SEPTEMBER
1994
VOLUME 3
ISSUE 8

The Official Newsletter of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen



PICNIC AT THE POND

On August 21st we had a club family picnic and carp fishing contest at Jeff Studtmann's house along the banks of the Minnesota River. A more perfect day could not have been asked for. Blue skies, sunshine, good food and friends were all there. We had a wonderful time fishing on Jeff's private pond. The carp fishing contest did not go too well as only one was caught. The winner was caught by my son, Mark. The kids also had a great time swimming later on. I would like to thank Jeff and Tammy Studtmann for allowing us into their home for the day.



CANE POLE FISHING

by Norman Strung

Conventional rods and reels are designed to reach fish with a long cast. Cane poles reach them with a long rod. This system has some advantages; bait plops down more quietly, you can put it exactly where you want it, and when a fish bites, you pull straight up, which sets the hook securely. Cane

poles made of bamboo are the standard, but whatever they are made of, they are all 10 to 20 feet long. Shorter rods won't reach far enough, and most people find longer rods are too tiring to hold. You can get either one-piece poles or a jointed one that comes apart in two or three sections. To rig a cane pole, tie a length of 10 pound-test braided fishing line 3 feet from the tip. Wind the line to the tip, and tie it off again. These wraps of line cushion the tug of a fighting fish like guides on a casting rod and help strengthen the most fragile part of the pole. The line you fish with should not be longer than the rod itself, and unless you have a reason to use a long line, half the rod's length is better. The most popular way to fish with a cane pole is with a bobber or float. Tie a foot of clear leader and a hook to the end of the braided line, and thread a small, sliding float about 3 feet above the hook. Dough-balls, corn, maggots, leeches, and grubs are all good baits for cane pole fishing, but worms are the very best. Once your

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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.

baited up, lift the pole high so the line swings toward you and then flicks out, like a pendulum. When your bait reaches a fishy spot, lower the tip gently and float-and-bait will settle down with barely a ripple. The best place to fish with this rig is where deep water abuts shore. Other good spots are around submerged objects like sunken branches, logs, and in river eddies and backwaters. Boat docks are another good bet. When catfishing with a cane pole, put your bait on the bottom with a sinker below a snelled hook. For pike and bass, try a red and white spoon or a strip of porkrind jigged or dragged by the edge of weed beds. Cane poles have another thing going for them: their length multiplies the pull of a fish to a point where a modest crappie takes on the proportions of a whale. Until you can pull the fish from the water he will dart and dive, and the battle, whether won or lost, is a lot of fun. No wonder these long rods have been around for so many years.

CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

The lake has held a respectable water level this past summer. The weeds have not been as big a problem as in past years, possibly due to the higher water level. The fishing has been spotty, sometimes good, sometimes bad. The bass are reaching respectable size, some up to three pounds. According to the test netting results from this summer there are good numbers of crappie, sunfish and walleye in the lake. There four different year classes of crappie and sunfish present in the nets, which indicates good reproduction of both species. Walleye were all of the 1990 year class. Carp are present in the lake and seem to be reproducing. It is thought they probably immigrated from the Little Cottonwood River during recent high water. There was also one 2 lb northern caught. This fish was probably planted by someone who probably thinks they should be included in the fish management plan for Clear Lake. This is foolish and could cause great harm to the healthy game fish population of the lake. The lake is not large enough to support them and the other game fish too. The lake looks healthy and the water has stayed relatively clear throughout the summer. Some of the cattails did not come back this year, possibly due to the high water. The weed removal at the County Park has been completed and plans are underway to build two sand beach areas were the weeds have been removed. It has been a good summer at Clear Lake, and I'm looking forward to some great fall walleye fishing.

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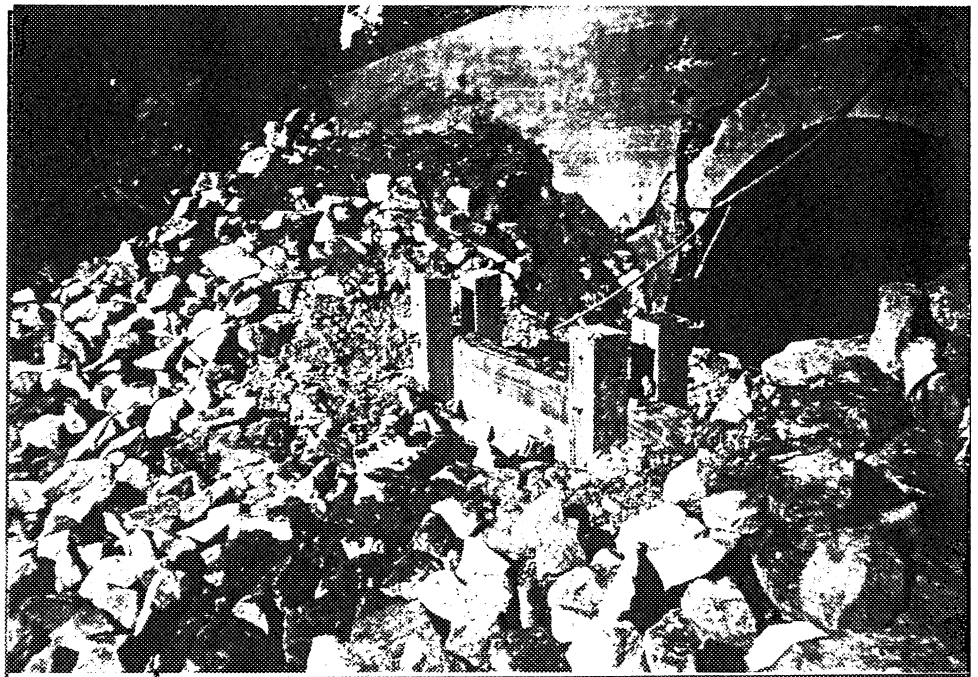
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MINNECON WETLANDS RESTORATION

On Tuesday, August 30th, the first phase of the restoration was completed. The three flow control structures were installed, and rip rap was placed around them to control erosion. A total of twelve acres will be restored to it's natural state by this phase of the project. If we get some heavy rains yet this fall it is possible that it will fill with water before the winter sets in. I would like to thank Hoffmann Construction and the New Ulm Park and Recreation Department for their help in making this part of the project possible. This is the first wetland restoration in the river valley thus far. I hope it is not the last. What we have done here is just the first small step toward restoring the Minnesota River to it's former glory. Plans are already underway for the completion of the final phase of the project. This will bring another six acres into the system, along with one of the cities storm sewer drains. When we are finished both sections will be connected for a total of 18 acres, and approximately 20% of the cities storm sewer discharge.

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TIP LINE

Before letting out a trolling lure, hold it close to the boat and adjust the throttle setting until it responds with the proper action. All lures work best at certain speeds, and it's easier to find the right speed than to keep changing lures. A fisherman I know, and a good one, always cuts off the last couple of feet of his spinning line each time he lands a sizable fish. That way, he claims, there is less chance he will lose the next one due to a frayed line or a loose knot. He discards the line at home.

DID YOU KNOW?

The reason why fishing is so good at dusk and dawn, just before and just after total darkness, can be found in the fish's eyes. The retina is made up of rods and cones-cones for daylight, rods for night. The change from one type of vision to the other is gradual, and many species will begin to adapt for night vision several hours before dark and to readapt for daylight in the middle of the night. Gamefish that adapt their eyesight in advance have a great advantage in low light over their prey, which haven't yet adapted their vision. In other words, gamefish are on the prowl at dawn and dusk because that's when they can see their prey better than the prey sees them. Keith McCafferty

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A quick reminder about NUASF's stenciling of the city storm drains. We are planning a session to paint "drains to the MN River" on curbs, on Thursday, September 22nd at 4:30 and we will meet at Riverside Park. Lunch and beverages will be served after the session. I would like to encourage all to participate in our storm drain awareness here in New Ulm. The storm drain project ties in directly with our Minnecon Wetland project, since this also affects the quality of water draining into our wetland. Minnecon Wetland will be posted with a sign that recognizes us as a partner and I am pleased to announce to all members that when completed it will purify (through natural filtration of aquatic plant life) close to 20 percent of New Ulm's storm water run-off. KARE 11 of the Twin Cities came down to do a story on this so be watching. They felt that this something that could be repeated over and over in other cities and also with county land that would be near city storm water and small stream inputs. I would like input at the next meeting about where to take the next meeting as part of our "Outreach" program. If you have suggestions bring them, and be specific.

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October 27th
 Meeting-
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