



Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

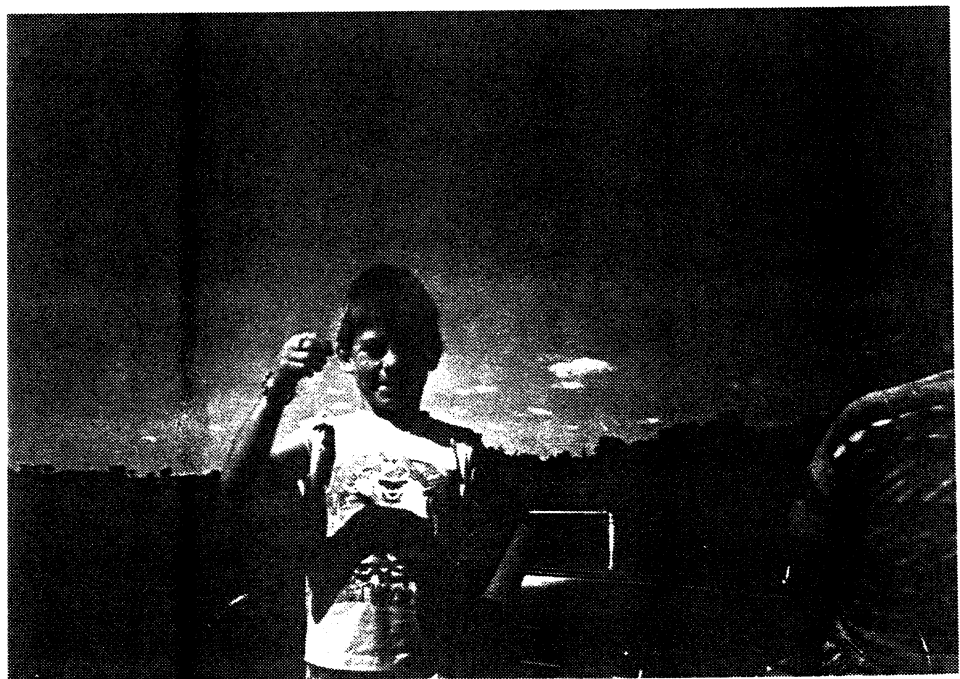
April
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Membership Drive

We are still conducting our year long membership drive. The person who signs the most new members by our december meeting will receive a club jacket. So far there are eight current members who are in the hunt for the jacket. The leader has signed up four new members. It wouldn't take much for you to get into the thick of this battle for a new club jacket. Every new member will receive a hat with the payment of their dues. All you need to do is collect their \$20.00 annual membership fee and get their name and address to Mike Deinken,

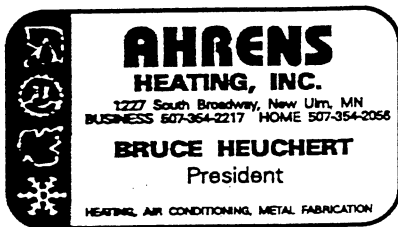
Clear Lake Update

The lake is up again this spring, hopefully we can keep the level up most of the year. The muskrats really took over the lake, and the weedcover along the shore has been reduced considerably. This past winter many fishermen had trouble with the rats coming up their fishing holes. I'm not sure if the loss of weeds along the shore is good or bad. On one hand it has opened up the access area, giving us more room to land and park boats. It has also reduced the available habitat for some of the fish who depend on the weeds for protection. Who knows, maybe enough of the rats from the lake got run over this spring and the weeds will have a chance to come back. I haven't made it out to go after some of the slab crappies that inhabit Clear Lake, yet. It won't be long now though. From what I have heard so far, I have not missed much, yet. I would like to thank Jim Hulke and Dustin Maday for cleaning the Wood Duck boxes at the lake. I am looking forward to a great spring and summer at Clear Lake, and with the addition of the fishing pier, which will soon be installed, there will be more opportunities for everyone.



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Club Jackets

We will again be putting together an order for Club jackets. I have had several people ask about the possibility of purchasing them. They come in several styles and weights. The cost is reasonable, about \$30.00 for a lined jacket, or about \$40.00 for a quilted, winter weight jacket. If you are interested or would like more info, please call Mike Deinken.

Editorial

Well here we are again. It's finally spring! It seems like it takes longer to get here every year. Maybe it just seems that way to me, I don't know. We can't complain though, all things considered, it was a pretty wimpy winter. We didn't have a lot of snow, and it was never really that cold. With as mild a winter that we had, you wouldn't think there should be any problem with the river flooding. But, there it went again, out of it's banks. What caused it to go out and stay out as long as it has? I just kin't unkerstand it. It couldn't be from the snow melt, as that was gone before the ice broke up on the river. We haven't had much rain to speak of. Not enough to cause the river to go out and stay out this long. Some people will say that they are letting water out at the dam again. That one is getting a little old for me. I think I know where the problem is, in fact, quite a few people do. It is all in the report recently published by the Minnesota River Citizens' Advisory Committee. Every year our towns grow a little more, a few more streets and parking lots get paved. When it rains where does all the water go? Right down the storm drains and straight to the river. Every year a few more potholes get drained, a few more acres of land get tiled so more crops can be grown. When it rains where does the water go? Right down the tile intakes and straight to the river. Most people think the little bit they are draining can't cause a problem. That one small area by itself probably wouldn't. But when you compound it with all the little areas that are drained or added to a storm



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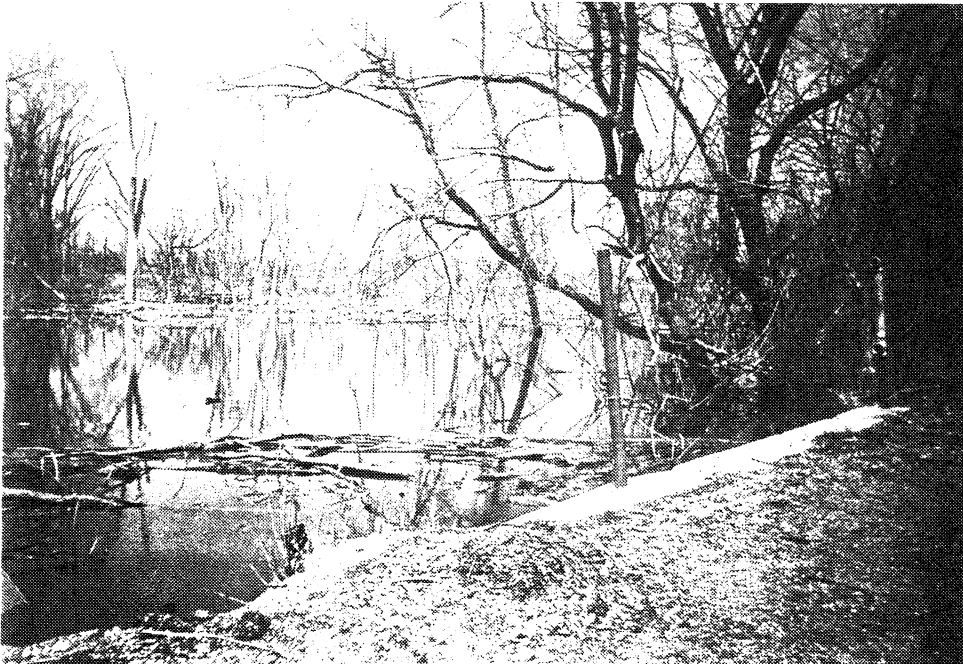
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sewer system, it makes a big difference. I believe we have gotten to the point where the river is past being able to handle the runoff from even a moderate rainfall. Each year it gets a little worse as more and more land is put to some sort of use. I was talking to a farmer the other day who said he used to be able to drive his tractor across the Cottonwood River to pick mushrooms on land he owned on the other side. He said it has been many years since he has been able to do so. He couldn't figure out why. The studies have been done, the problems have been identified, the solutions have been drawn up. Lets have some action! The Governor has promised to make the Minnesota River one of his priorities. He said he will allocate monies to get things rolling. Well, let's do it, before it is too late.—Mike Deinken.

Minnecon Wetlands



About the only good thing that I can see to come out of this years flooding, is that it has filled our wetland up with water. The water has been over the top of all the level control structures. This summer we should get some good weed growth. The wetland has been officially named. It will be known as the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen City Wetland. There will be a sign erected this summer designating it so. The wetland is only half finished, and it was the easy and cheap half. To finish it and connect it to the city storm sewer will take a

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considerable amount of money. Some grant money has been applied for and hopefully will come through so we can finish the project this summer.

Yes I Did and I've got a Witness

by Scott Sparlin

As a young somewhat rebellious Iron Range kid, I did as many of my age in the Summer of 1972. I finished the baseball season at college with my buddy from Wabasha, and we (like 2 hunting dogs, out of the cage) packed our stuff, threw it in the Mercury and headed to California, the land of unbelievable extreme, just the way we liked it. So many things transpired that year, that to begin to write them down would do a great disservice to my friends' memories. So I'm only going to share one glimpse of that bizarre time of my existence: that yes, I did and I've got a witness.

Trout fishing in the California hills was pretty predictable, to say the least. They planted fish on Tuesday and you needed to fish on either late that day or early on Wednesday and even Thursday wasn't that bad. There were great naturally reproducing lakes and streams further up in the Coast Range Mountains around Taft in the high desert. But that was a heck of a walk and neither of us was too excited about rattle snakes which frequented the Coast Range Mountains. So we did the majority of our trout fishing where we could be highly successful. Keep in mind though, these were not stupid fish by any means. They were very spooky and only fed when they decided to, so there was a great deal of patience involved in catching them. That being what it is, I once read in a book, I think it was Izaak Walton's "The complete Angler" that if you rubbed the belly of a brook trout that it would fall asleep, roll over on its belly and you would have a split second to grab the fish with your hands. Well, I've always been up for a challenge and knew darn well that I could outsmart that fish. I proceeded to wade in the stream very slowly up to where the fish was swimming. He already appeared tired from fighting the fast moving crystal clear water, so I had a good feeling about it. I knew if you stayed behind a trout or any fish for that matter, that they cannot see behind themselves. I cocked off to my friend, "Hey, get a load of this," then I proceeded to put m

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hand in the water for what seemed like about ten minutes, but was more like three because the water was so cold. I snuggled my fingers underneath the trout's soft underbelly, after I had knelt down as low as I could without getting entirely wet. After the initial contact with the fish's skin, I knew I had him right where I wanted him. So with my buddy looking at the whole ordeal in disbelief, that trout rolled over on his belly ever so slowly and I snatched him from the stream with a smile of a cheshire cat who had robbed the goldfish from his master's tank. My friend could only shake his head at me, as I've seen him do a thousand times before. Not much of this has been said since, but the memory of that sunny California day, not a care in the world, often makes me wonder if that wasn't why I could pull that off.

From the President

Boy those smelt are going to be good on the 27th. If you haven't heard by now, we're taking the vans from the buslines for this month's meeting and heading to Evan. There's plenty of room so c'mon, besides our Western Brown County crew likes to get us in their home turf for a little fishin' talk, that way they can wear "The Hat".

Minnesota Riverbank Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th at 9am starting at Riverside Park in New Ulm. We have permission to block off the entrance to the old highway 15 from that state and the county. So if you have a post hole digger and a good pair of shoulders and gloves bring them along. Let's have a nice turnout for this one. We will also be doing some stenciling of storm drains that day, weather permitting.

I was just out at the lake and boy does the sand look good. You who helped can really be proud. That will be enjoyed for many years to come. Don't be surprised if you get a call from Mike Deinken about helping to get the "Walkway" installed. The only thing that needs to be done at the park before we can get at this is for the dock to be installed, and chances are pretty good that this will be done by the time this newsletter goes to print.

Our upcoming trip to Area Fisheries at Waterville in July should be a lot of fun. We will talk further about that at the next meeting in Evan.

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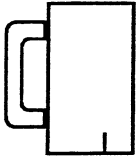
Club Calendar

April 27th--Meeting, Evan Inn-Bus to leave from Bus garage at about 6:15 PM--Smelt Feed

May 6th--River Clean UP-Riverside Park-9AM

May 25th--Meeting-Schell's Tap Room-7:30 PM

June 11th--Take a Kid Fishing-Clear Lake-1-4 PM



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