



Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

December
1995
Volume 4
Issue 12

Ice Fishing Contest



This year's contest will be held a week later than usual to avoid a conflict with Sleepy Eye's contest. The contest will follow the same basic format as in the past. This year we will again be selling tickets in advance. It worked so well last year that we doubled our registration from the years before. We will again be giving away a gas powered ice auger as the top prize. Advance tickets will be available at the december meeting, make sure you get there to pick some up. It would be nice to do even better this year. There has been some talk that there would be some kind of prize for the member who sells the most tickets. Lets make this be our biggest and best contest ever.

Club Calendar

- December 28th ----- Meeting - Schells Tap Room - 7:30 P.M.
January 19th - 21st ----- Winnie "96"
January 25th ----- Meeting - to be announced
February 11th ----- Ice Fishing Contest - Clear Lake

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"A Cold Fish"

by

Chris Kavanaugh

Ducks fly south, bears sleep through it, people spend more time inside. What do fish do in the winter? Hopefully, they find enough food to survive.

As the lakes freeze over and winter sets in, the lakes and streams become very different places. Fish need to adapt to their surroundings in order to make it to spring to reproduce.

Fish are "cold-blooded" which simply means they are unable to regulate their body temperature like we can. This means their metabolism, or ability to turn food into energy or growth, is limited by the temperature of their surroundings. As the temperature drops the fish become less and less active. They still need food to maintain themselves but rarely are they able to find enough to put on growth.

As the lakes and streams get ice-covered the production of food is limited. The food web begins with sunlight and nutrients which are converted to food energy by algae, which are eaten by zooplankton (microscopic animals), which are eaten by aquatic insects, which are eaten by small fish, which are eaten by larger fish. Ice and snow cover, and the short days of winter, limit the amount of light entering the lake. Frozen ground and ice block the input of additional nutrients from overland runoff. The beginning of the food web is then limited, having an effect through every other step.

Fish have been surviving Minnesota winters for 10,000 years. In that time they have developed some mechanisms or strategies to help them cope. As the water temperature drops and the days get shorter in the fall most fish go on sort of a feeding binge. While most folks are hunting ducks, grouse, and deer they are missing some tremendous fishing opportunities. This feeding binge goes on until just after ice-up. From that point until the ice begins to break-up, fish are in a maintenance mode when it comes to eating.

Some lakes present another survival challenge to fish in the winter. When the lake freezes over there is no more wave action to replenish the dissolved oxygen. Springs and rivers may offer some relief, otherwise, the amount of oxygen in the water at freeze-up has to last until the ice begins to break up. Cold water can hold more oxygen than warm water. Some oxygen may be produced by algae if sunlight can penetrate the snow and ice, however, those same algae are consuming algae at night and on cloudy days. Low oxygen levels can be a real problem

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**Hook, Line,
 and Sinker**

The Official Publication of the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

The *Hook, Line and Sinker* is published monthly by Joyce Reese for the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of respective writers and not to be construed as the opinion of the NUASF or its members. Send all correspondence and submissions to Mike Deinken, Editor, 1022 Spring St., New Ulm, Minnesota 56073.

The NUASF Board

President - Scott Sparlin (359-2346); Vice President - Jerry Carlson (354-8869);
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in shallow lakes. It can get so low, below 2 ppm, that the fish begin to die. As the dissolved oxygen level drops, fish will seek out areas of the lake with higher dissolved oxygen. These areas are closer to the ice, near inlets and outlets, or near large springs. Springs have to be large enough to produce sufficient current to erode or melt the ice so that the water is in contact with the air. Spring water itself is usually void of oxygen since it is coming right out of the ground and has not had any opportunity to be oxygenated.

Winter is a tough time for fish and other animals. It is a period of high stress and high mortality. Only the strong and maybe the lucky survive. With spring comes new life and the opportunity to replenish the stocks through natural reproduction.

Clear Lake Update

The ice has come and the fish have been biting. The cold weather and the lack of snow have made some excellent ice so far this year. Sunfish and crappies have been biting along with some walleyes later at night. There is a good chance that by the time you read this the fish houses will have already been put out on the lakes. All members are entitled to use

the houses, you need to contact Mike Deinken about getting a key. There are several rules we would like all members and guests to follow when they use the fish houses.

First, when you use the houses on Clear Lake, bring a couple of pieces of wood along for the stoves. Second, help keep the houses clean, do not leave garbage in

the houses, take it home with you. Lastly, sign the log book before you leave, let us know how you did. Remember, these houses are a reflection of our club, let's make it a good one.

FOR SALE Club clothing - jackets, hats, and tee shirts. All available and reasonably priced. We've got your size.

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Celebrate

5 Years of Successes

River Banquet

Saturday, January 13, 1996

Christine's-on-the-Corner

400 North Minnesota St., New Ulm

The CCMR will be celebrating the success stories of river enthusiasts and grassroots organizations from across the river basin.

**Great Meal • Special Speakers • Ceremony
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5:00 p.m.	Social Hour
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:45 p.m.	Special Speakers
	Randy Krzmarzick, farmer, Sleepy Eye
	Scott Faber, American Rivers, Washington, D.C.
7:10 p.m.	Recognition of Accomplishments
8:00 p.m.	Entertainment

Tickets for the entire evening only \$15.00

Tickets are available by phone or stop in at: **CURE**, 103 W. Nichols, Montevideo, 1-612-269-2105 • **Friends of Minnesota Valley**, Bloomington, 1-612-854-5900 • **CCMR**, 1-507-359-2346 • **F&M Bank**, New Ulm • **Audio Village**, New Ulm • or write to CCMR, P.O. Box 488, New Ulm, MN 56073-0488.
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From the President

Don't forget about the voting on giving out of the "Stoney" award. This is presented each year to the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen member that is recognized for the selfless giving to the sport of fishing.

As we come to another years end, I am reminded of all our membership and can't help but feel proud to be a part of this wonderful club. My best wishes go out to each and every one of you for everything that makes us such a unique multi-faceted group.

Well it won't take long and some of the club that has the opportunity will be going to Lake Winnie for some serious perch fishing. I can almost taste the fillets right now! For the more discriminating palate, eel pout and whitefish will also be served.

My thank's to Orin Schultz for his donation. We not only thank you for the money you helped to raise but the taste as well.

How's that Sleepy Eye fish house project going? Don't ask me, but I think it would be a pretty good idea, if we could get it off the ground.

As of this issue we will be using a new publisher for layout and development of our fine newsletter. Joyce Reese has taken over for Chris Vorwerk who has done a fine job for us in the past, thanks to you Chris and welcome aboard Joyce.

I just wanna' close by saying, if you can't reach me I'm probably fishin' or going fishin', see ya' on the lake or maybe the river.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

ICE FISHING TIP

Are you tired of trying to grab one of those tiny ice fishing lures from your tackle box? You either end up with about six lures in a big tangle, or you get three of them stuck in you finger. Well I think I found a solution to this problem. If you take some foam weather stripping and cut it to lengths that will fit into the bottom of your tackle box you're on the way to solving the problem. Most of this weather stripping comes with self-adhesive backing so all you have to do is peel the backing off and stick it to the bottom of the tackle box. Youthen push the hooks into the foam. This keeps the lures from getting tangled up and they pull easily from the foam when you need to use one.

Notice : All newsletter ads are due Jan. 1st. Single space; \$20.00 per year , double space; \$35.00 per year. See Mike at the next meeting or send money to NUASF 1022 N. Spring St. New Ulm , MN 56073.

This years membership drive will end at this months meeting.. The leader so far has signed six new members as of the November meeting. It wouldn't take a whole lot of effort for someone else to take over the lead and become the winner of a new club jacket. I would like to thank all of the guys who have taken part in this years membership drive. We need to keep bringing in new members so that our club can keep growing , not only in numbers but in strength. Every year we lose a few members and we need to keep replacing them. Your dues keep the club operating and help us complete the many projects we undertake throughout the year. Even though our membership drive may be ending at our December meeting, we need you to continue seeking prospective members, explain what we have been doing as a club, and invite them to a meeting so that they can see the club in action. Again, thanks to all the guys who have worked so hard this past year to help make our club stronger.

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1st Annual River Banquet

Dear Minnesota River Supporter,

Scarcely five years ago, a few vocal, but little known advocates raised the consciousness of the masses. Their focus - The Minnesota River. Their message - "It's a resource worth saving". In just a few short years, the voices have multiplied and echoed in the small cities and other towns across the river basin. Where there was apathy, now there is empowerment. Empowerment of individuals -- farmers, teachers, professionals, singles, church leaders, empowerment of organizations, schools, churches, businesses, clubs, civic organizations, and environmental groups. All have a mission, all have a story to tell.

The CCMR will be celebrating the success stories of river enthusiasts and grassroots organizations from across the river basin. On Saturday, January 13, 1996, the CCMR's first annual River Banquet will provide a forum for sharing stories -- both personal successes and those of organizations large and small.

Won't you come and join us and help us to celebrate your own and other achievements in working to restore the Minnesota River? The celebration will be held at Christines-on-the-Corner in New Ulm beginning at 5:00 p.m. The evening will include a social hour / poster session followed by a great meal, good conversation, special speakers and a ceremony celebrating the success of individual Coalition members and group members. The evening will wind down with music, door prizes and more.

So let us come together, talk about the river, and re-energize ourselves for another great year of river advocacy. The CCMR and the Minnesota River need your support.

The menu consists of: Your choice of Chicken Ribs or Vegetarian Stir Fry, Baby Carrots, Cole Slaw, Baked Potato, Rolls, Coffee or Milk.

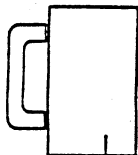
Agenda for the evening: 5p.m. - Social Hour, 6 p.m. - Dinner, 6:45 p.m. - Special Speakers, 7:10 p.m. - Recognition of Accomplishments, 8 p.m. - Entertainment.

Tickets for the entire evening are only \$15.00 per person.

We hope to see you there!

The logo for Running's features a stylized, bold letter 'R' that is partially enclosed by a circular shape, with the word 'Running's' written in a cursive font to its right.

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