



Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

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CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

This has been a fantastic winter for Clear Lake. The lack of snow has provided crystal clear ice. This allows sunlight to penetrate to the weeds growing in the lake thus keeping them alive so they can keep producing oxygen. The level has been steadily going up since the start of this winter. I think we have passed the critical point of the season. With a little luck and very little snow the rest of the winter, we could get through the season without starting the aeration system.

The fishing has been hit or miss, with some days being pretty good and some not so good. The only real puzzle has been the walleyes. There is supposed to be quite a healthy population in the lake. The only problem has been getting them to bite. There were a couple of reports of a few walleyes being caught in the middle of the night when things quiet down.

The houses have gotten quite a bit of use so far this winter. The new door in the big house and the second window in the brown house have been welcome additions that have made both houses more convenient to use. I want to set one thing straight about the color of the big house. Contrary to some rumors I have heard, I did not get the paint from my place of employment. It is left over paint that Kim Olson had. It is definitely not PUC turbine green. Don't forget, we now have a third fish house, which is located on Lake Hanska. As of this writing we don't have our name on it yet. The house is red with a white door, and there is a Manderfeld Lumber sign on one side of it. If you have a fish house key it will also work on this house. This house is equipped with a propane stove, so if you plan to use it, take a tank along with you. Please remember to pick up around the houses after you have used them.

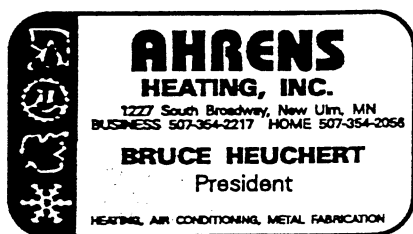
ICE FISHING CONTEST

On Sunday, February 5th, we held our 8th annual ice fishing contest at Clear Lake. Judging from some of our past



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contests, we were hoping to get enough people to cover our expenses. Were we in for a big surprise. The people started showing up as early as 10:30 A.M., and they kept coming and coming. By the time they stopped, we had 340 people entered in the contest. It was a perfect afternoon, with sunshine, no wind, and temperatures in the low twenties. The fish were also cooperating for most people. We had over 80 fish registered, with many more being caught but not being weighed. There were also a couple of surprises as to the types of fish caught. The first one was a 4 lb. 1 oz. carp. I didn't know they would take a hook in the winter. The second surprise, which came up about a half hour later, was a 2 lb. 3oz. bullhead. It may be a little bit of a shock to you, hearing that these fish were caught in Clear Lake, but they are not a serious threat to the lake. The number of carp and bullheads in the lake is very insignificant and causes no immediate threat to the gamefish population.

Rhonda Berg caught the biggest crappie, a 1 lb. 4oz. fish that caused quite a stir when it was brought in to be weighed. The biggest sunfish was a 10 oz. beauty caught by Adam Boyum. Sad to say, there were no walleyes caught again this year. I would like to thank all the members who came out to the lake early to help set things up for the contest and those who helped with the contest itself. Without your help, we could not have made this the best contest we have ever had. Thank you.

LET'S GO TO THE BEACH

The first week in February, Hoffmann Construction installed two sand beach areas at the Lost Dog and Fox Hunters County Park at Clear Lake. Several club members volunteered their time to help with this project. We were involved with putting down a weed blocking fabric before sand was pushed out onto the ice. Over 600 cubic yards of sand were hauled in and



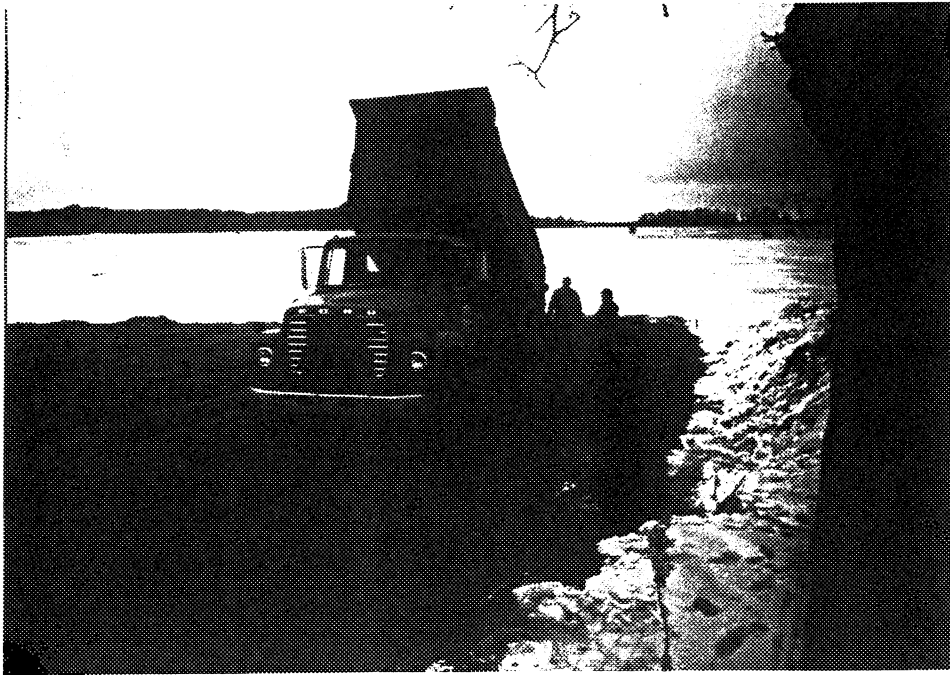
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President-Scott Sparlin (359-2346); Vice President-Jerry Carlson (354-8869); Secretary/Treasurer-Mike Deinken (359-9650); Board Member-Randy Griebel (354-8461)



leveled to create the beach areas. One area will be designated as a swimming area. The other area is scheduled to receive a fishing pier this spring. These will give a lot more people a chance to fish Clear Lake. The Lost Dog and Fox Hunters Club will be purchasing the fishing pier. Our Club will be providing and installing a handicapped accessible walkway to the pier. The completion of this project will make Clear Lake a wonderful place for everyone to enjoy the great outdoors.

FROM SMALL BEGINNING

The other day, at the fishing contest, I was amazed at the number of people that turned out for a day of fun on the ice. It made me think back to the early days of our club. When we started 8 years ago, there were only a handful of us. At some of the first meetings there would only be 6 or 7 people in attendance, and that was almost 100% of our members. With those humble beginnings, I never expected to see the progress we have made thus far. We started with a lake that had a good, but accidental, population of crappies. The very next year the lake froze out and prospects looked pretty bad. Our only hope was to get a public access somewhere on the lake so that the DNR



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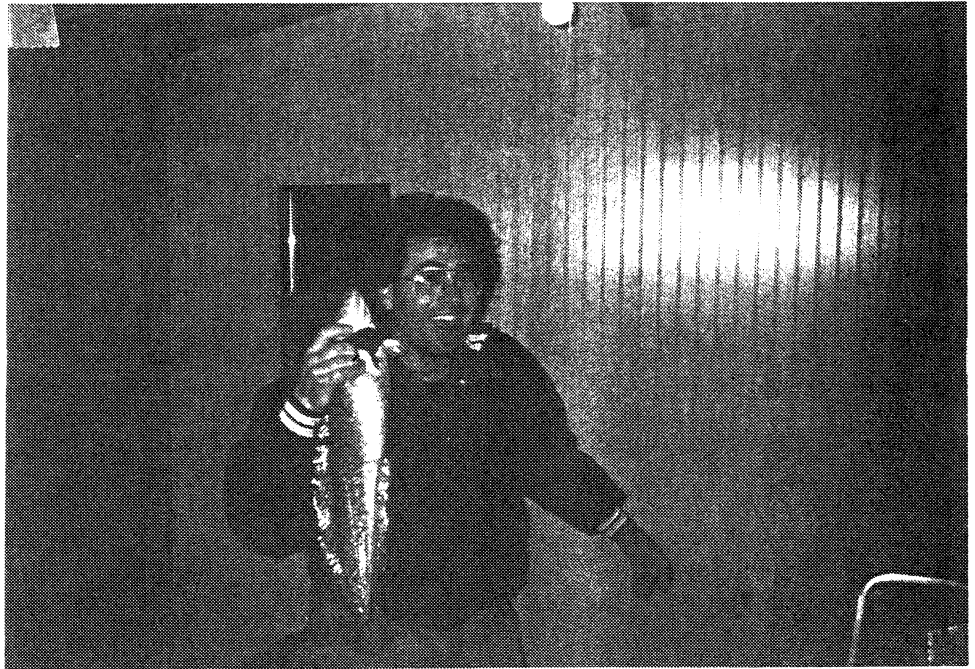
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would do some stocking. Without it we would be destined to catch nothin but bullheads. Since those early days things have changed drastically. People now drive considerable distance to fish Clear Lake. We have not had a winter kill since the aeration system has been installed. Our Club was not taken very seriously at the beginning, after all, we were just a couple of guys who liked to fish. The Club has grown to over 100 members, and has considerable influence in the community. It gives me a good feeling to thin back at what we have accomplished so far, and I know we will accomplish whatever we set out to do in the future.



NOW THIS IS FISHING

As most of you may know by now, our trip to Winnie was probably the best ice fishing excursion we have taken. Most of us were used to spending the weekend trying to catch at least one fish from the dead sea, most of the time we couldn't do it. But on this trip we were treated to the kind of fishing most people only hope to experience. In the first five minutes we had caught more fish than we had in the last five years at Mille Lacs. It was virtually impossible to fish with more than one line. We didn't even have time to enjoy a beverage unless we left our line out of the water. The first day we only fished for about 3 hours and we kept 480 perch that weighed from 3/

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of a pound to about 1 pound. We probably threw back as many as we kept. The second day the fishing slowed down considerably, as we only kept 280 fish. We did have quite a bit of excitement on Saturday though, as several members earned new nicknames through their fishing experiences. Cisco Nelson spent most of Saturday afternoon trying to entice a whitefish to take his offerings, with no success I might add. There was only one eye caught in our house, and that dubious honor went to Walleye Witte. The highlight of the afternoon occurred under the house. The only eelpout caught in the house ended up on the ice underneath the house. After crawling halfway through his hole, and with the help of a convenient board, Cod Sparlin retrieved his prize. Needless to say, we had a great time. Catching enough fish to bring home was a new and exciting experience for us. Those of you who didn't go with us this year are going to wish we hadn't either, cause for the next ten months we are not going to let you forget what you missed out on.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A big Thank You to all who donated, participated, and worked at this years Ice Fishing Contest. It was a huge success. Over 400 registered for the contest and food sales, as well as the raffle were just great. Of course, a highlight during the event that made this affair not only fun, but entertaining, was when Allen "Smiley" Wiltscheck led the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen Chorale in song. The boards at KNUJ Radio were jammed with requests for more selections after hearing the "Just Because Polka" and "Ein Prosit", which leads me to wonder when the Chorale will be performing again and if they are going to accept the offer of going on the road. Stay Tuned!

If you have not seen the wonderful job Hoffman Construction did on installing the sand blanket at Clear Lake in front of the park you will have to drive out there and take a look. Come spring, the public will have a place to throw a line out and do some shore fishing. Once again this club can feel proud that funds we contributed as well as our sweat will benefit current and future anglers and isn't that what it's all about?

I look forward to our April meeting which will be at Evan, Minnesota, the home of our western Brown county members. Information on Lake Sleepy Eye and other important things will be discussed, I hope to see all of you there.

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Club Calendar

- February 23rd, Meeting, Club Office above Southside PubFish night, bring your favorite fish dish for lunch
- March 30th, Meeting, Schell's Tap Room-7:30 P.M.



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