



Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

July
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CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

The fishing has been pretty good this summer, despite the hot weather that we have had. The people that said that there were no walleyes left in the lake should have been out there this summer. I have seen quite a few nice 2 to 2 1/2 pound fish taken. As for myself, I have not been as lucky. The bass, though, have fallen victim to my skills, or maybe I have just been lucky. There are plenty of 2 to 3 pound fish that make for an enjoyable outing. Crappies and sunfish are also active so there is always something to test your fishing skills.



The fishing pier has seen plenty of use. It seems there is always someone fishing out there. We have had some trouble with aeration lines floating this summer. On two separate occasions we have had to go out and add weights to keep down the lines. Thanks to the guys who have helped with this. Also, if you happen to see a line on the surface, be sure to let me know about it so that we can get some more weights on them. Sometime in the next month or so I would like to get a couple of members together to do some work on the fish houses so they are ready to go for the coming season.

NEWSLETTER

I have been looking for ways to fill space in our newsletter. It seems to be getting harder for me to find enough pertinent information to pass along to you. One idea that I had was to publish a big fish column, listing fish that members have caught throughout the year, along with their names and where it was caught. All you need to do is get the information to me.

I was also thinking of a year long club fishing contest. Something that would run from January 1st through the next January 1st, with categories for different species. Maybe we could have some kind of prize or trophy for the winners in each category. Think it over and let us know your feelings one way or the other. We cannot to continue

to bring you a quality newsletter with up to date information, but to do so we need your help. Don't be afraid to speak up.

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EDITORIAL

I am sitting here writing this from one of my favorite fishing spots on the banks of the Minnesota River. Where I sat a week ago is under two feet of water. I have yet to sit and fish from the spot that I used last fall. I am mad! I realize there have been some heavy rains upstream from here, but the river has yet to completely enter its banks since the ice broke up in late March. This river is my stress reliever. When things get hectic, I will sneak away for an hour or so and relax. This year has been tough. You never know if you can get close enough to the actual river to do any fishing.. When you can get to the river, the current is so strong that you cannot keep your bait in the river. There has been much talk for the last three or four years that something will be done to restore the river. Studies have been done and

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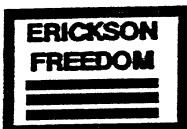


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politicians have said that the river must be fixed. We know what the problems are and we know what it will take to correct them. It is time to start doing something.

It almost makes me sick to see the amount of agricultural tiling going on. Every time we get a heavy rain, some farmer somewhere in the watershed feels he has to stick more tile into the ground so he can keep another 50 square feet or so of his field from being flooded out. They do not seem to realize or even care where the water goes. They just want to get rid of it. What is going to happen when we get a dry year? Then the crops will burn up from lack of moisture and the government will pay them for the lost crops when it is their own fault in the first place. It's not my fault and I do not want to pay for it. It may sound as if I am picking on farmers. Your right, but I am not doing it out of ignorance. You see, I used to be a farmer. I know what goes on out there. Farmers are not the only ones on my hit list. Our cities are no better. We keep expanding and adding to our storm water systems and still just keep dumping them into our rivers and lakes. It has to stop, and soon. Our rivers are turning into a big system of drainage ditches. IT HAS TO STOP.—Mike Deinken

JULY MEETING

Our next meeting will be at the Fish Hatchery located in Waterville, Minnesota. We will be taking vans from New Ulm Bus Lines. There will be a tour of the hatchery followed by a short meeting. There has been some talk of stopping at Gilligan's Restaurant to eat before we come back. We will need to know how many people are going so we can inform the restaurant as to how many people to expect. Please let me know by July 24th so I can get in touch with the people at Gilligan's. We will be leaving at about 6:00 PM from the bus garage. If you would like to accompany us on this road trip please call me (Mike Deinken) at 359-9650.

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**CAMP COURAGE KIDS**

On Wednesday, June 14th, a group of 12 handicapped kids from Camp Courage were given the opportunity to experience the excitement of fishing. Several of our club members brought their boats and fishing equipment so these kids could get out on the lake for a couple of hours. Afterwards they were treated to lunch, some of it prepared by the kids. I would like to thank the members who gave up those couple of hours on that beautiful afternoon. The smiles on their faces and the "thank yous" from the kids were worth all the effort.

HOW TO HOOK A WORM

Once is enough. If you're stream fishing with worms or night crawlers hook the bait just once behind the head for the most enticing presentation. If a worm is hooked in the middle, it will tend to fold unnaturally into a V shape. If it is hooked several times, it will look more like a pretzel than a free drifting natural bait.

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SLIPPERY WHEN WET

Eels slither. Worms squirm. Clams quiver. Mussels mush. Tired of handling slippery baits? Try this trick: Shake your bait into a bag of cornmeal. Messy baits instantly become easy to handle, and since the cornmeal floats away when your line hits the water, your bait is unaffected. Bonus: Some good smelling chum spreads around your fishing hole.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Wednesday, June 21st, Members of the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen took Camp Courage kids fishing on Clear Lake south of New Ulm. A good time was had by all and for those members participating a real "Hats Off" is deserved. Fishing was not altogether active but the kids had a great time and a little sing along at the end.

It's so hot today I saw someone from Goosetown frying catfish on the hood of their pickup (actually looked kind of good).

The walkway at Clear Lake has somewhat depleted resources for the club. The best way for raising money long term is through new memberships, so be thinking of someone who would like to join and have them attend a meeting.

Recently, 36 of the Minnesota River Watershed counties signed a joint powers agreement in Mankato. This signals the beginning of an effort to address "on land" issues that directly affect the river. With the help of groups like ours and the CCMR, innovative and progressive projects will be the focal point for many other rivers throughout the United States. We are truly living in a historical time with regards to dealing with our surface water. Let's hope we are all up for the challenge, because it will undoubtedly take some time.

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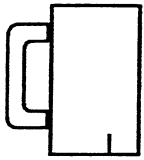
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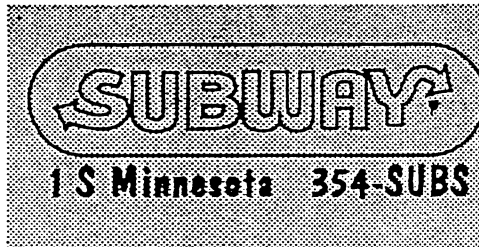
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