



# Hook, Line, and Sinker

*The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen*

April  
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## River Clean-up Saturday, May 4th



This year's River Clean-up will be held on Saturday, May 4th. We will again be doing this in conjunction with RATTs from 3M. The clean-up will start at 9:00 a.m. from Riverside Park and last until about noon. Dress accordingly. There will be some gloves available, but if you have your own, that's great. We will then have lunch and a drawing for door prizes for those that helped with the clean-up. In the afternoon there will be a catch and release fishing contest for participants. It should be a great day to get out to the river. So bring your gloves, rod and reel, and appetite, and we'll see you there.

For more information call Mike at 359-9650 or Scott at 359-2346.

## Lake Hanska has Carp problem

You may not know it, but Lake Hanska has a carp problem. The last couple of years it has been getting to be quite serious. Later this spring the Lake Hanska Sportsmen, along with some help from our club, will be setting out some carp traps. This will not solve our problem, but hopefully, it will keep carp under control somewhat. When the times comes, some of you may get called to help with the traps.

Also, at the last meeting, there was some talk of having a carp catching contest. You may have noticed I said catching and not fishing. From the discussion we had, carp could be taken in any manner that is legal. This would include angling, spearing, and bow and arrow. This contest would possibly be

held the first weekend in June. As of now, it is just in the talking stage. There will be more discussion and possibly, a firm date set at the next meeting. If you are interested, please be at the meeting.

## Club clothing is available

Jackets, hats and T-Shirts with our Club logo are available and reasonably priced.

We've got your size, or we will get it for you.

## CLUB CALENDAR

**April 25th**

**Meeting** at Schell's Tap Room 7:30 p.m.  
Guest Speaker-Walleye Seminar  
Fish Dish - bring your favorite.

**May 4th**

**River Clean-up** Riverside Park-9:00 a.m.

**May 30th**

**Meeting** - to be announced.

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# From the President...

Well one of, if not the biggest meeting of the year is coming up here April 25th at the Schell's Tap Room. As always, we bring in Area Fisheries Manager, Hugh Vallient, from Waterville. We look forward to the question and answer session we have with him every year to explain area fish management goings on. Bring your appetite, it's fish to eat after the meeting. So if you have some fish recipe you want to bring or some specialty of yours to share, please do so that night. Smoked, pickled, casseroles, soups, etc. I'm sure there won't be any leftovers.

The challenge has been put out for the member that signs up the most new members by August will now receive 4 cases of Schell's products. This number will continue to grow through the generosity of club members that come forward to throw their contribution in the pot. So let's make it worthwhile, and sign up those members.

I heard someone say the other day, "Boy they must really be letting water out of the dam at Lac qui parle". Well, that really drives me up the wall. After hearing otherwise for the past 5 years and seeing the hydrological graphs, I know it to be anything but true. It gets perpetuated each year by the same people who know absolutely nothing about it, and yet it continues. I think its because of feelings of helplessness to change what they perceive as unchangeable, that they continue to say this year after year. Just last year the Army corps of engineers came through and explained to the general public that the Lac qui parle dam has very little to do with water levels in the Minnesota River. I guess there is just no getting through to some people with this particular issue. What's really the case is that at any given time somewhere in this basin there is a snow or rain event going on in one of the 12 major watersheds that has an effect on the river. With our ability to deliver water to the major tributaries in the fashion that we do now, which is basically through pipes underground, believe me, that water gets there quick and has the immediate ability to raise the water level drastically. The dam at Lac qui parle has no more flow in it than any one of the Minnesota River's major tributaries above New Ulm. This is not to say it has no impact, it's just way, way less than some believe it to be. If you don't believe me call Greg Payne and the United States Geological Survey and he will verify it. His number is 612-783-3233.



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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); Secretary/Treasurer - Mike Deinken (359-9650); Board Member - Jim Hulke - (354-3654).

# Clear Lake Update

Spring has finally arrived, the ice has almost left area lakes. The Minnesota River is starting to go down and it's only April. Clear Lake has been host to many ducks and geese for the last month. It won't be long before boats will again be backed up at the public access. Still there have been some brave anglers walking out on the ice, taking advantage of the late season fishing. There have been some nice panfish caught, but remember, ice conditions can change drastically at this time of year. Make sure you check the ice as you walk out. What will fishing be like this spring? I honestly don't know. The winter bite was nothing to brag about, maybe it will pick up with the warm weather. If you have any questions or concerns, make sure you're at the next meeting. Hugh Valieint, from the DNR's Waterville Fishery, will be more than happy to answer your questions and listen to any ideas you may have concerning the lake areas.

The fishing pier at Clear Lake didn't come though the winter in very good shape. There are quite a few screws broken, and even some boards have broken. It is floating unevenly also, possibly indicating some leaking floats. Sometime during the winter the pier seems to have pushed against our walkway, doing some damage there also. At the last meeting we had some discussion on the possibility of the pier having to be pulled out and rebuilt. I'm sure we will have more information at the next meeting.

## Why Rattling Works

When lure manufacturer Cotton Cordell first introduced Th'Spot back in the late 1950s, it wasn't supposed to be a rattling bait. But the weights inside the sinking/vibrating lures sometimes worked loose, creating a rattling effect. It wasn't long before fishermen were shaking lures in the stores, buying the models that made noise. Now every Spot that leaves the factory rattles.

Scientists are uncertain how or why fish react to rattle baits. Jim Diana, a fisheries professor at the University of Michigan, says that fish detect sound in two ways- through their lateral lines and through their inner ears, perhaps magnified by their swim bladders. The lateral line, Diana said, senses vibration in the water and whether the bait's sound chamber adds to those vibrations is questionable. But there's no doubt that in low-light conditions--- in deep or cloudy water, or after dark--sound becomes a more important sensory mechanism than vision, Diana says. Though, he adds, "What causes them to strike it, we really don't know.

Ken Chaumont at Bill Lewis Lures, the company that manufactures the Tat-L-Trap and pioneered made-to-rattle baits, theorizes that the sound attracts fish by putting them in a predatory mode. Before a fish sees a bait and takes it, Chaumont says, it was already put in the mood to strike when it heard the lure. Why do rattle baits trigger this killer instinct? Some argue that the unusual sound mimics an injured baitfish. Others think it merely stokes the predator's curiosity. Still others proclaim, Who cares? They work. Need proof? Chaumont says that the fact that the tackle industry has sold some 50 million of these baits in the last 20 years ought to prove something.

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