



# Hook, Line, and Sinker

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

March  
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## CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

# Aeration system works flawlessly



We have made it through another winter without experiencing any fishkill. The aeration system was started at the end of January and will probably be shut down by the time you read this. The system worked flawlessly this year, after sitting idle last year. The oxygen never dropped below 3.5 ppm, which is well within the safe limits for fish survival. Although the fish have come through the winter in

“Late season ice can be dangerous, and ice conditions can change from day to day.”

very good condition their appetite for anglers presentations has gone down-

hill. The ice fishing has been very slow this year on Clear Lake. There have only been occasional periods when the fish have bitten with any

consistency. There is always the possibility that the bite will turn on yet this spring before ice-out. Remember though, late season ice can be dangerous from day to day.

In last month's report I talked a little about the presence of northerns in Clear Lake. I said we should be keeping every northern caught, because the lake wasn't big enough to support them. I may have been wrong. Since that article came out, I have been told that maybe the lake can survive with a population of northerns. But, will the presence of northerns in the lake have an adverse effect on other gamefish in the lake? After all, the northern would be at the top of the food chain. Do you have questions? I know I do. Want to get them answered? Be at the April meeting when Hugh Valient, from the Waterville fishery, will be there to answer them. Until next time, good fishing.

## C l u b C a l e n d a r

### March 28th

Meeting - Jerry's bar - Sleepy Eye  
Vans leave bus garage at 6:00 P.M.

### April 25th

Meeting - Schells Tap Room - 7:30 P.M.  
Guest Speaker - Walleye fishing seminar

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# A Little About Water Quality



The pH value of water, on a scale of 0 to 14, measures the concentration of hydrogen ions. Pure distilled water is considered neutral with a pH reading of 7. Water is basic if the pH is greater than: water with pH of less than 7 is considered acid. For every one unit change in pH there is approximately a ten-fold change in how acidic or basic the water is. Most valuable species, such as brook trout, are sensitive to changes in pH; immature stages of aquatic insects and immature fish are extremely sensitive to low pH values. Very acidic lakes and streams cause leaching of heavy metals into the water. As an example, lemon juice has a pH value of just a little over 2, while Ammonia has a pH of 12. Pure rain water has a pH value of 5.6, while Northeastern Minnesota rain water has a pH of only 4.6. If a lake becomes too acidic, the lake becomes sterile and will not support fish and other aquatic life.

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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).

## From the President . . .

I don't know about you, but I am ready for some warm up and fishin' pole action. This year once again, I, like so many of you, will promise myself that I am going to make an effort to do much more fishing. Good intentions, right? But if a person doesn't set time aside for regular outings, it seems never to take place. That is why those times and even the ones that are last minute, (which for me are the most fulfilling, because of the excitement of playing hookie or that the fish are really biting) are so important to one's psyche. Let's face it, going is half the battle. So plan ahead and leave it alone, "Just Do It".

Last meeting the club agreed to help the Lake Hanska Sportsmen's Club with their fish traps. This, I'm sure, will take some effort on our part, so if you get a call to participate, please help.

The next meeting in Sleepy Eye will mark the beginning of our 1996 membership drive. We will again be offering a jacket to the NUASF member that signs up the most members for the year. This year, however, there will be a half way point incentive for the member in the lead at the end of August. The prize, 3 cases of your choice of Schell's products to enjoy. Good Luck.

## DON'T STOCK THAT BAIT

Introductions of bait fish can harm other species through competition, predation, or hybridization. The baitfish industry in the U.S. and Canada sells about \$1 billion worth of bait each year. Like other industries, it's driven by supply and demand. Demand for the bait continues. In 1991, for example, more than 800 million baitfish were harvested for sale in Minnesota alone. The bait business isn't without controversy. Problems generally fall into two categories: effects on the environment and spread of disease.

Taking bait from natural systems reduces the population of that species by removal and injury during harvest. Baitfish collections may also accidentally include species prohibited for bait use, like young game fish. Some researchers have shown that limited harvest of bait has only a temporary effect and is of little biological significance. Others have found the effects to be more significant, especially where bait harvest is intense or concentrated in one area. Use of livebait can also affect the water where fishing occurs. There livebait may escape or anglers may empty bait buckets into the water after a day's fishing, although to do so is illegal in many states. Even if dumping bait is legal where you fish, it can be harmful. No harm occurs if the bait species already is present and reproducing in the body of water. If the bait species doesn't exist there, however, it can become established. This can damage the existing fishery by altering the fish community. In some instances, anglers have intentionally stocked baitfish, perhaps intending to provide more forage for gamefish and improve the fishery. Poorly planned introductions can seriously hurt fishing. We also know that introductions of baitfish can harm other species through competition, predation, or hybridization. Fishery biologists also are concerned about the introduction of new diseases into fish populations. In an angler survey, 41% said they released unused bait alive, about one in four anglers killed live bait before discarding it. Over half the anglers didn't know that releasing livebait was illegal.

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## MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting will be a road trip to Sleepy Eye. In the past couple of years we have acquired quite a few members from the Sleepy Eye area. We have about 15 now, along with 5 or 6 from the Evan area. So, we decided to move this meeting a little closer to those members. We will be meeting at Jerry's Bar in beautiful downtown Sleepy Eye. You can hop aboard a van and get a ride over, or drive yourself. The meeting will start at 7:30 P.M. There will also be a meal of some sort after the meeting if you are so inclined. The vans will leave at 6:00 P.M. from the bus garage. Let's have a big turn out for this meeting.



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