



Hook, Line, and Sinker

November
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The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

Clear Lake Update

What a mess! We thought that after the winter kill that occurred at Clear Lake last winter, the rough fish in the lake would be wiped out. After test netting last poring it was learned that there seemed to be no carp left in the lake, but the bullheads were taking over. It was decided that we could maybe live with the bullheads, so the lake was restocked. This fall it was discovered that the lake was also full of small carp. Now our only option is to reclaim the lake. This time fish traps will be installed to prevent rough fish from re-entering the lake. The problem now is, the fish traps can't be placed where we would like to, and more water will have to be treated. This leads us to the final problem, which is money to see this project through. With all of the cutbacks that have taken place within the DNR, there most likely is not enough extra cash in their budget to fund the complete project. We will have to find some outside sources to complete the financing. If this can be accomplished by this spring, the lake

could be reclaimed in the fall.

At the lake, things don't look that bad. We recently removed the marker bouys for the winter and the water is clearer than it has been for a couple of years. Along the shore most areas are smooth sand and free of muck and dead vegetation. It is possible that the death of most of the large carp last winter has helped

improve the water clarity and possibly the quality. As we were motoring around the lake that day we also saw some fish, and they happened to be walleyes. They looked to be in the two pound range. This, I think, gives us some hope for ice fishing this winter. Let's hope so, I sure missed being out there last winter.

Notice: Meeting date changed to Tuesday

This month's meeting will not be held on the last Thursday of the month. As it happens every November, that day is Thanksgiving.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 25th instead. Don't forget now, Tuesday not Thursday. See you at the meeting.



Club Calendar

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 25 | Meeting at the Club House. 7:30 p.m. |
| December ? | Meeting date to be decided at next meeting |

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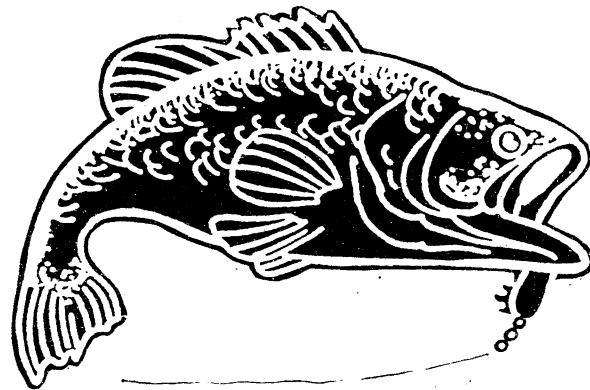
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"PIT STOP" ON FARM TIRE SERVICE

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Well, here comes another Winter and we look forward to some ice fishing. The only problem is that locally we are somewhat limited because of the condition of Clear Lake. The good news is things are rolling to improve and turn around the conditions at Clear Lake. The bad news is just like anything, its going to take some money. I am confident that we can respond in some fashion to that upcoming need. All the more reason to tell the general fishing public what we are all about and what we are working on. That responsibility falls on th shoulders of the membership. As you pass on information about the club, seek membership, and/or resources such as volunteer help to not only support the immediate needs of this area's fish habitat, but the on-going needs of our organization. With all that being what it is, I would be remiss in not mentioning the continuing work that our present membership does and the insightfull counsel that is provided at all of our meetings.

Don't forget the change in time for the next meeting, Tuesday, November 25th at the clubhouse 7:30 sharp! or the usual fashionable late 7:45. The agenda has many concerns and you should bring yours as well. See you there!



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The Hook Line and Sinker is published monthly by copy haus 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 Street, 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 Huelke (354-3654).



COALITION FOR A CLEAN MINNESOTA RIVER

November 16, 1997
Peder Larson, Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
5220 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Via Fax: 296-7923

Re: Mankato Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Commissioner Larson:

I am writing to express the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River's (CCMR) great concern that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency staff's recommended permit for the Mankato Wastewater Treatment Plant would allow the plant to double its current phosphorus discharge.

As you know, the Minnesota River is often described as one of the nation's most polluted rivers, and phosphorus is one of the pollutants of critical concern. Phosphorus contributes to the unhealthy condition of the Minnesota River by, among other things, causing very high levels of algae growth and consuming large amounts of dissolved oxygen in stretches of the river where it sags, during low flow events, below levels necessary to support healthy aquatic life.

Reduction of phosphorus pollution in the Minnesota River is one of the CCMR's top priorities. We work daily with people who have land that may have "nonpoint" discharges to the river, to create buffers along riparian stretches and institute voluntary best management practices that will reduce the phosphorus load reaching the river. We have traveled to Washington D.C. to seek support for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program that would address this as well and we are confident it will come to fruition. Governor Carlson has established the same high priority for his administration by committing to make the Minnesota River fishable and swimmable by the year 2002.

If the Mankato permit allows Mankato to double its phosphorus discharge, it will set a precedent that will make it difficult to achieve the widely shared goal of Minnesota River cleanup. Landowners who would be approached, through largely educational efforts, will likely respond: why should I voluntarily invest money or take cropland out of production to obtain phosphorus reduction, when MPCA is not requiring the City of Mankato to implement mandatory reasonable, feasible and prudent measures to hold its phosphorus discharge to current levels?

CCMR believes there are a number of reasonable alternative phosphorus control measures for the Mankato plant, including biological processing of phosphorus (bio-p) and "trading" for non-point phosphorus load reduction. Bio-P is proving to be a huge success for the Rahr Malting Company. In the months since, MPCA approved Rahr's permit, Rahr has very economically accomplished nonpoint source phosphorus reductions that should more than exceed its permit requirements. These kinds of precedents, trading and bio-p, not the precedent of doubling the phosphorus load to the river, are the precedents MPCA and the City of Mankato should work to establish in this permit.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the MPCA Board's Water Quality Committee meeting on November 18, I was in Idaho giving a presentation on effluent trading, which for the record was viewed as a doable and viable alternative in certain circumstances. I would greatly appreciate you identifying CCMR's concerns to the Committee members. I do plan to attend the Water Quality Committee and MPCA Board meetings on December 16th to communicate CCMR's concerns directly to the Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Scott Sparlin, on behalf of our Board of Directors and 52 groups' support, as well as our individual constituency from the entire Minnesota River Basin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Sparlin", is written over the typed name.

**SCOTT SPARLIN
COORDINATOR
P O BOX 488
NEW ULM, MN
5 6 0 7 3
507/359-2346**



Stoney Award to be given in December

The time is fast approaching when we will again bestow the Stoney Award on one of our members. Each year the award is given to the member who has given the most selflessly of his time and

resources to promote and improve the quality of sportfishing in our area. Nominations will be accepted at our November meeting. At the December meeting we will vote and award the 1998 Stoney to one

of our members. We have many members, who throughout the year, have given more than what has been asked of them, and deserve to be considered for this award.

Membership drive winding down

This year's membership drive is winding down. Two more meetings and we will find out who this year's winner is. At our last meeting our membership increased by four, push-

ing us to 107 members. Rod Mueller put himself in the lead for this year's jacket by signing two more, bringing his total signed this year to four. You still have time to take the lead

away from him. If you have someone you think might be interested in our club, invite them to the next meeting so they can get a better idea of what we are all about.

It's a matter of taste

Did you know that Catfish probe the bottom of lakes and rivers for food with their barbel, whisker-like structures on their snouts. Many people call these feelers, but that is really

not a good name for them. Barbels are covered with taste buds, like those on your tongue and the roof of your mouth. Although the barbels are somewhat sensitive to touch,

their main role is to locate food. By tasting different objects, the buds help a catfish figure out if something is edible or not.

DID YOU KNOW?

Originally walleyes were found only in a triangular area extending across Canada and south to Alabama. But

as a result of widespread stocking, they are now found in almost every state and province. Few attempts

have been made to introduce walleye outside North America.

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