



April 1999 Volume 9 Issue 4

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

Canadian fishing trip raffle at meeting

Have you heard? We have a Canadian fishing trip that we are raffling off at our April meeting. The trip was donated to us by Eric Olson of *Mr. O Outfitters*, a new member of our club. This is an all inclusive trip for one to Eric's fish camp on Lake Diefenbaker in Saskatchewan. Quite a few of our members have taken this trip and will tell you what a great experience it is. The raffle will be held after the next meeting. Cost will be \$5 per chance and you can buy more than one.

If you are interested but can't make the next meeting, give Mike Deinken a call at 359-9650. This raffle is for members only.

Membership on the rise

Membership is again on the rise. The last couple of months we have been over 120 members. There are about 15 members who are past due, but they continue to trickle in. So far Ervin Fischer has the lead in this year's Membership Drive with four new members signed.



Restocking program back on track

The Clear Lake restocking program is back on track. This fall, Clear Lake, Domeier Lake and Domeier Slough will be treated to remove all fish. Restocking probably won't take place until the spring of 2000. It will then be

approximately two years before we will again be able to fish Clear Lake. There has been some talk of closing the lake to fishing for an unspecified period of time to give the stocked fish a chance to spawn several times. If these fish can be left alone for at least one year, we will end up with some fantastic fishing in the coming years. Our club has made a commitment to raise \$10,000, which will help with the cost of treating and restocking the lake. We already have \$2,000 pledged. Later this month our fundraising campaign will be put into high gear.

Club Calendar

April 21st - CCMR Meeting - Clubhouse, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

April 29th - NUASF Meeting, Cluhouse, 7:30 p.m.

May 27th - NUASF Meeting, Clubhouse, 7:30 p.m.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Walleye/Northern opener is right around the corner, I don't suppose anyone is ready. This year should be a good one; looks like things are shaping up for an early spawn. I plan on setting the state record for rock bass. But then again I plan on that every year. It is still quite attainable at 2 lbs. I'm positive I have unknowingly cleaned several state record rockies.

Sometime look up on the picture at the clubhouse. You will see a pretty bizarre pic ture of John Vorwerk who was on a club fishing trip to Mille Lacs with an eel pout he caught in the summer. Why am I not surprised that it was one of us that it happened to.

Our fundraising drive for Clear Lake fish re-stocking has officially been kicked off. We have set a goal of \$10,000 to add to the budget of the DNR for the lake for needed project enhancement dollars. It behooves all of us to spread the word to everyone who enjoys angling in the area to help with Clear Lake. Our community has enjoyed opportunities to fish at Clear Lake in the past and I think if they are reminded of it, most will gladly help out.

If you have an interest in the Minnesota River, or any of it's tributaries I would strongly suggest that you attend regular CCMR monthly meetings. These meetings will be about river water quality and quantity issues that will take you in more depth that I have time to explain about at our monthly NUASF meetings. There will be diverse people from everywhere in the basin and from all walks of life, it should be quite interesting. Besides, I would hope that we would all want the opportunity to help shape the future of our river and the fish that swim in it.

You have an insert besides the one that deals with the upcoming meetings, that is addressed to our new Minnesota Pollution Control Agency commissioner. It deals with re-classification of some "unnamed ditches" and streams in our MInnesota River basin. Amazingly some are located just downstream from point source inputs. Like the proposed new Southern Minnesota Sugar Beet plant expansion in Renville Co. They are proposed to be downgraded to a "limited resource waters" class. What kind of message is that? What do you think someone from Crow Wing County or Itasca County would say to such a proposI? Are we less important here? I'm just posing the questions, the same questions I plan on continuing to ask of our MPCA. The amazing part is this has been an activity of the MIPCA for 20+ years. Make is wonder, don't it? This same thing was tried a couple years ago when the city of Fairmont was faced with an upgrade to their waste water treatment plant. Rather than fix the plant, a city official proposed a downgrade of Center Creek to a class 7 "limited resource waters". At that time, I thought this was an isolated case. At the time CCMR responded with a letter to the MPCA and a judge who was to rule on the case. Those who didn't want to see this happen were lined up, which by the way included our recent partner in our ditch cases. Anyway, he ruled to not allow it. I thought that was that, boy was I wrong.

We have a lot to talk about at the next meeting so be there, and bring a friend.

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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 Members: Jim Huelke (354-3654), Dave



The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River P.O. Box 488 New Ulm, MN 56073 EMail yasure@mailcity.com 507 359 2346 FX 507 359 5765

Hey River enthusiasts and concerned citizens We need your help!

- *Would you assist and advise on-going efforts to clean up the river and it's tributaries?
- *Do you think a grass-roots voice for the river is important in guiding clean up efforts?
- *Would you like to see water quality clean up efforts accelerated?
- *Do you think it's important to monitor those accountable for river clean up actions?
- *Do you think citizen water quality monitoring is an important tool for clean up efforts?
- *Would you like to have your voice be heard?
- *Would you like to communicate regularly with others working to improve the Minnesota River and it's tributaries?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, now is the time to act.

Recently the Minnesota River Citizens Advisory Committee was disbanded. There are many people who feel this type of citizen grass roots *watershed wide* advisement is a critical component in order for clean up efforts to be fully successful. Recommendations to the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and other Government Agencies are most effective when presented in a unified manner.

Starting on Wednesday April 21st, of 1999 at 7 P.M. The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR) will begin monthly meetings that will be open to the greater public at large. This first meeting and at least 6 meetings a year will be located at our office meeting room, located in the beautiful bluffs of the Minnesota River, right on the edge New Ulm. Being located at the center point of the river and approximately one and one half hour from most points in the watershed, we feel fortunate that we can accommodate and hold effective meetings. We are also inviting all former members of the Citizens Advisory Committee along with any government entities at all levels who are willing to participate.

You are welcome and encouraged to join as a member, but it is *not* required for these meetings. We are committed to an open door policy. In the beginning we will have a round table format and drainage will be discussed at our first meeting. Subsequent meeting agendas will be geared to address various actions and activities presently underway and those that need to be happening that are not. What form meetings take in the future will depend on the attendees through majority consensus. Items for discussion can be brought to meetings. But to ensure a place on the agenda it is best to contact us ahead of time.

We envision the byproducts of these meetings being: enhanced information sharing opportunities, possible news columns, and a new engaged citizenship that shares its enthusiasm, wealth of talent and years of experience with those presently inspired.

We need you, map is on back of page



March 15, 1999

P.O. Box 488 New Ulm, MN 56073 Ph. 507-359-2346 FX 507-359-5765 Email vasure@mailcity.com

To: Ms. Karen Studders Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Rd. St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

From: Scott Sparlin Coordinator, Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River P.O. Box 488 New Ulm, MN 56073

Randy Krzmarzick President

Dear Ms. Studders,

Patrick Lowther Treasurer

Delbert Wehrspann

Kim Olson Director

Director

Linda Meschke Director

Scott Sparlin Coordinator

I have included a copy of proposed amendments to water quality rules that apparently are under consideration by MPCA staff. I hope that action on these considerations has not been taken. I was not notified of this directly by MPCA. This came to my attention from a source within another agency. If it is possible I would like to be notified in the future of this particular kind of review. Upon reading this material and after consultations with members of our board of directors and others in CCMR's basin-wide network, we are concerned. As you may or may not know, work to improve the Minnesota River has been a huge undertaking that has made genuine progress toward water quality improvements. The proposed downgrade of public protection from water pollution by sources both within the agency and from the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the PCA who are supposed to initiate and assist efforts to restore water quality is not appropriate. If indeed declassification has been done by a so-called non controversial method which is "promulgation of the changes without public hearing", we will raise the issue in the media immediately. As citizens who have been successful after investing thousands of volunteer hours since 1990 and poured their hearts and souls into raising the level of public awareness about water quality issues, we will not stand idly by and let some "wording" in the rules open the door for future abuses. It is clear that this proposal weakens standards and allows compliance with existing laws to be met by simply changing the words and rules. You have the ability to lead, I hope you come down squarely on the side of protection regarding this and future decisions. This is not the time to "maintain" or "digress", it will affect all of us and those people who will have to live here long after we are gone.

I have also included an organizational brochure to let you know who we are.

Sincerely, on behalf of the membership, the president and board of directors

Scott Emerson Sparlin CCMR, Coordinator

Sport Fishermen kick off Clear Lake Fish Fund

An official campaign to raise specific funds to re-populate fish in Clear Lake near New Ulm with Crappie, Sunfish, Largemouth Bass and Walleye has been kicked off. Plans to eliminate the existing bullhead and carp in the lake are slated for this year. To insure that the project is a complete success, additional funds beyond those presently budgeted from the fisheries division of the Department of Natural Resources are needed. Assurances to protect the future of the lake with items such as fish traps and the additional treating of School and Domeier lakes to eliminate present fish populations, will

enhance the lakes ability to sustain healthy diverse fisheries. The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen have set a goal of \$10,000 and have already obtained commitments for \$2,000 of the total. The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen are a registered federal tax exempt organization and all donations are tax deductible. To specify a Clear Lake donation please send checks to New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen C/O Treasurer, 1022 North Spring St., New Ulm, MN 56073, and label "Clear Lake fish fund". Help us bring the fish back to Clear Lake. For further information, call 507-359-2346.

Food Booth can be set up at Sausage Shop

As most of you know, the club purchased an older travel trailer this past January and converted it for use at our fishing contests. We did some interior remodeling so that we could use it for servicing food. It worked great at our Ice Fishing Contest in February. There was room inside for everything. We now have the oppor-

tunity to set up at The Sausage Shop this summer instead of running a stand at one of the local grocery stores. We can have our choice of weekends, however many we will be deciding at the next meeting. Your impact and suggestions would be most welcome.

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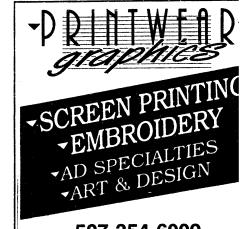
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