



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

Ice Fishing Contest February 20th

This year's contest, which is the 12th Annual, is being held Saturday, February 20th, on Sleepy Eye Lake. The contest will run from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.. We will be needing help before the contest starts and also during. We will start setting up about 9:30 a.m. that morning, and could use some help.

Ticket sales so far have been very good, and it looks like we will have more prizes than last year. Our new concession / registration trailer will be ready and in use that day, so why not stop out and take a look at it? We would like to see a large turnout from the club that day. This is our big event for the year and it would be nice to have a lot of members there. Let's make this our best contest yet!

Stoney Award

At this coming meeting we will be awarding the Stoney to one of our members. This award is given each year to the member who has given the most of himself to promote the goals of our club. This is the only award that our club gives and it is not given lightly. Make sure you come to this meeting and help us bestow this honor on one of our members.



Good turnout for Sleepy Eye Ice Fishing Contest

On February 7th, Sleepy Eye Sportsmen held their 17th Annual Ice Fishing Contest. What a beautiful day it was. The weather was perfect and the people showed up. There had to be 400 people on Sleepy Eye Lake that Sunday

afternoon. The fish were cooperating to an extent, some people caught fish, some didn't. We can only hope for a day half as nice for our ice fishing contest as the Sleepy Eye Sportsmen had for their's.

Club Calendar

February 20th - Ice Fishing Contest, Sleepy Eye Lake 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

February 25th - Meeting at Club House 7:30 p.m. • Stoney Award, guest speaker Hugh Valient from DNR Fisheries. • Fish Dish Night .Bring your favorite fish dish.

March 25th - Meeting - Road Trip?

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"PIT STOP" ON FARM TIRE SERVICE

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Well our February meeting will be a culinary adventure for all. It's our all-fish night. Dating back to 1991 the NUASF February meeting has been one that feature different fish dishes that are prepared and brought to share with other members. In the past we've had many varied and delightful offerings. I will as always be bringing my Cajun gumbo made with Minnesota River largemouth buffalo fish mixed with perch, always a big hit. For you first timers, come hungry, because we have pickled fish, fish pie, smoked fish, baked fish, fish saultz, and this year we will fire up the deep fryer for anyone who brings fillets to deep fry. This year there will be a one dollar ingredient charge for those who want to sample it all. The proceeds will go to the club.

We also look forward to having Hugh Valient MNDNR Fisheries at the February meeting. He will be passing along late breaking info about Clear Lake, which include budget news (which is good), as well as, Lake Hanska, Clear Lake Gibbon, Sleepy Eye Lake and others that you may or may not know of. This is a golden opportunity plant early seeds for post reclamation fish management and stocking ideas. Maybe we can even come to a consensus that evening as to NUASF organizational wishes on the makeup of the future population of the lake.

There will be Minnesota River updates, food booth discussions, fishing contest wrap-up, buffalo feed news and a whole host of other things of interest to the membership. So be there!

Now to get up on my soapbox, peach crate, or whatever. The recent goings on with regards to the appointment of a new DNR Commissioner has me a little off center. First, it appears to the average Joe that on the surface that there is some resentment not choosing an existing or "in house" person, I can understand that. Second, remarks that suggest a new commissioner has no call to speak out about a very small minority of conservation officers that do indeed abuse their position of power is nonsense. That's exactly what I thought part of a commissioner's job was. To suggest that the MNDNR conservation officers have none among them that warrant monitoring of their activities and that they are above reproach (as the head of the conservation officers union suggests in his comments in the Minneapolis Star Tribune) is an open door to abuse of power. Ya' it was stupid to call names (crappie cops) and that never accomplishes anything, but he brought to the forefront the over sensitivity that exists in the leadership of the union. It's time to see if new union leadership could bring about more constructive and cooperative working situation for the greater good of the citizens of Minnesota. To be in a constant adversarial stance with DNR management benefits neither the union, resources, the people that want to enjoy them, or the people making a living from them. There are some basic human rights issues that need to be raised regarding some of the enforcement tactics and methods used by a few misguided officers. Some lessons on "intent of the law" and "letter of the Law" really need to be dealt with by management. Degrees of resources abuse do exist, but you wouldn't

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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 Mecklenburg (794-7859), Ken Sutherland (354-4140).

Buffalo Feed tickets

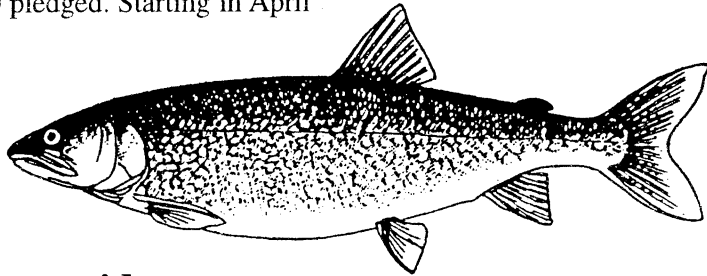
We are getting close to selling our 100 tickets. Most of the tickets have been distributed to members. We need to get all of these tickets sold so we can keep on receiving the opportunity for the fundraiser. If anyone has tickets that

they don't think they will be able to sell, get them back to me so we can get them sold.. The Legion could also use some help with the Feed, if you are available to help, let me know.

Clear Lake Update

It looks like the restocking of Clear Lake is back on track again. The paper-work should all be taken care of by the time you read this. The biggest hurdle we have now is making sure we have the funding in place to complete the project. Our club has made a commitment to raise \$10,000 pledged. Starting in April

we will put our fundraising campaign into high gear. It's been a long wait, but it seems we are coming into the home stretch. For more information and to voice your opinions on the future of Clear Lake be sure to attend the next meeting.



From the president from page 2

know it in reading about some of the horror stories that we've all heard of; that has to change. Providing leadership towards a new direction of compliance through greater understanding and awareness make a lot more sense than manufacturing criminals to put in an already over burdened system. It's also a heck of a lot less costly and more sustainable. I'm not suggesting that there isn't any bad guys, *there is*, and there can even be good guys that do bad things, but the trouble is the really bad guys are usually pretty sharp and it can be quite labor intensive to catch up with one, besides, that's not who I'm talking about. Does anyone of us really thank that Alan Horner was a bad guy, I doubt it; would he have made a good commissioner, maybe, maybe not, but he makes my point clearly. Who are we making criminals or the perception of being a criminal out of? The truth be known, he is only one of the multitudes of honest, well intentioned average people that are vilified every day by a small minority of self righteous, ego centric, power hungry wolves lurking insidiously among us. Our only recourse to keeping that situation at a manageable level is to question activities, and motives while calling attention to it in our media. I have witnessed the beginnings of that healthy process in action up north. But it takes lots of guts to challenge it in a small town. I wish the new Commissioner lots of luck, he seems like a good enough guy. I just hope Jesse didn't go from one extreme to the other.

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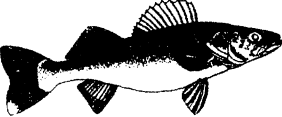

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