



Hook, Line, and Sinker

January
2000
Volume 10
Issue 1

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

Clear Lake Up-date: Good News

Good news at last. Clear Lake is scheduled to be treated after ice out in spring. If we do not receive an abundance of moisture between now and then. It was almost done this fall, but the lake froze two days before they were ready to treat the lake. With the lake so low, Domeier Slough has become disconnected from Clear

Lake. There will be a fish trap installed at the outlet of Domeier Lake. With Domeier Slough being almost dry, there will be no need to treat it. This is not quite the situation we were hoping for. We would have liked to have isolated School Lake

from the system, but it just wasn't possible to get it all worked out. The DNR did test netting on Clear Lake this past fall, and all they came up with were carp and bullhead. Hopefully in a couple of years we will again be fishing on Clear Lake.

Ice Fishing Contest Sun., Feb. 13th

On Sunday, February 13th, 2000, the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen will be hosting their 13th Annual Ice Fishing Contest on Sleepy Eye Lake. The contest will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with registration starting at 10:30 a.m. Everything is pretty well set.

Al Zwach is this year's Prize Chairman, and he has four or five members helping him solicit prizes from local businesses. If any of you members own your business and would like to donate a prize for the

contest, please contact Al Zwach at 359-5120.

Tickets and posters are available, if you have not received yours yet, please contact Mike Deinken at 359-9650.

The food stand will be on the lake that day, and we can always use help with one thing or another. If you have not been contacted to work that day, just show up, the more members who are there, the smoother things will go. Let's make this the best ever contest we have held.

Stoney Award

At our February meeting we will award the prestigious Stoney Award to 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 until the February meeting, at which time we will vote and award the 2000 Stoney. We have many members, who have given more than what was asked of them, and deserve to be considered for this award. Nominations can be sent to Mike Deinken, or turned at the next two meetings.

Annual Buffalo Feed March 11th

We are again selling tickets for the Legion Baseball Boosters Buffalo Feed, which will be held on March 11th from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. This has become one of our major fund raisers. We have been

given 100 tickets to sell. If we do, it will mean \$2,000.00 for the club. You can get tickets at the next meeting or by calling Mike Deinken at 359-9650. Let's get them all sold this year.

Club Calendar

January 27th	Meeting at Club House 7:30 p.m.
February 6th	Sleepy Eye Sportsmen Ice Fishing Contest, Sleepy Eye Lake
February 13th	Ice Fishing Contest, Sleepy Eye Lake
February 24th	Meeting at Club House - 7:30 p.m. - Stoney Award
March 11th	Buffalo Feed at American Legion

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- "PIT STOP" ON FARM TIRE SERVICE

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

It was very encouraging to hear Hugh Vallient speak at our last meeting. It looks like some major hurdles have been jumped with regards to Clear Lake. Now if we have a dry Spring and a window of opportunity to poison and restock we can get the ball rolling once again. Having walleye, crappie/bluegill, and large mouth once again will make Clear Lake another option for county residents not to mention those outside our immediate area.

Stoney nominations are being accepted, make sure you nominate someone deserving (in this club there are many).

Buffalo feed tickets are being sold right now. This is a major source of funds for the club, so buy your tickets and sell some to someone else if you can. It's a great meal and for every ticket sold at \$10 we can make an additional \$10 per person. So by not even doing any work and having a great meal you can make \$20 for the club. It's a no-brainer. Last year we got within 7 tickets of a hundred. Let's go all the way this year. Contact Mike Deinken to obtain your tickets.

We had a successful trip to Winnie and a great fish fry after. A good time was had by all.

I would encourage you to attend the next meeting and bring a friend. We have many things of importance on the agenda and your input is needed. The fishing contest will be discussed as will Clear Lake and Lake Hanska.

Lastly, now is a good time to start thinking about the February meeting and putting together a fish dish to pass. This has become a yearly ritual for the club and so many different things on the menu make it a real treat for all.

DEAD ZONE

continued from page 3

Efforts to aid the Gulf would also clean-up polluted rivers and streams throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri.

Water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, pH, nitrate and unionized ammonia for tributaries to the Mississippi are periodically violated, and hundreds of river miles are considered "impaired" by state water quality officials.

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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

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Hypoxia Science Report Targets Runoff

by Scott Faber, Staff Writer, *Mississippi Monitor*

A special White House task force last month released the final assessment of the causes of a growing "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico.

The committee of Environment and Natural Resources of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy concluded that polluted runoff from Midwestern farmland is the primary source of Gulf of Mexico "hypoxia."

Nitrogen and phosphorus - nutrients found in fertilizers and discharged by wastewater treatment plants - have accumulated in the Gulf and sharply reduced the amount of dissolved oxygen available for aquatic life.

The new report integrates six reports issued in May, and will be subject to a 60-day comment period.

American Rivers urged Congress and the Clinton Administration to quickly establish a water quality monitoring network for the Upper Mississippi River basin - a region which contributes one-third of the nutrients reaching the Gulf of Mexico.

The national river conservation group supports a sediment and nutrient reduction program developed by farmers, waterway users, and environmentalists from Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri.

The locally-developed program - called the "Mississippi River Stewardship Initiative" - includes a monitoring network, computer models to identify major sources of polluted runoff, new federal incentives to adopt better land management practices, improved coordination, and expanded outreach efforts to farmers and homeowners.

Supporters of the Mississippi River Stewardship Initiative are seeking \$38.3 Million in FY 2001, which begins in October 2000.

Most of the nitrogen washing into the Gulf of Mexico comes from farmland in southern Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio - areas which contribute several times more nitrogen to the Mississippi River basin, according to the White House task force. In particular, streams draining Iowa and Illinois - though they drain only 9% of the basin - contribute as much as 35% of the nitrogen washed into the Mississippi during years of average rainfall, and more during years with high rainfall.

Nitrate concentrations in the Mississippi River have more than doubled in the last century as the use of fertilizers has intensified, according to the task force. In the last 30 years, nitrate concentrations have increased three-fold. Polluted runoff from farms and city streets contributes 90% of the nitrogen and phosphorus being washed into the Mississippi River.

Farms are the largest contributors of both nitrogen and phosphorus. Fertilizers applied to farm fields contribute 50% of the nitrogen. Animal manure, by contrast, contributes 15% of the nitrogen, and municipal and industrial sources contribute just 11%. Since the 1950s, fertilizer applications have increased 7-fold in the basin.

The task force estimates that reducing nutrient levels by 20 to 30% would increase dissolved oxygen levels in the bottom of the Gulf by 15 to 50%.

Restoring five million acres of wetlands and reducing fertilizer use by 20% is the most cost-effective way to reduce the amount of nitrogen being washed off into the Gulf of Mexico, according to the White House task force.

DEAD ZONE continued on page 2

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