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CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

DNR reports on spawning survey

At our last meeting Hugh Valient, of the MN Department of Natural resources, gave us a report of the spawning survey that was conducted on Clear Lake in September. So far things look pretty good. The crappies and bass showed up in some very outstanding numbers. Sunfish numbers are not quite where where they should be but they are not doing too bad. The only dark spot in the survey, there were no walleyes in any of the traps. The reason for this? No one is quite sure; there will be another survey in the spring. The best news of all is there were no bull heads. According to Hugh Valient, the benefit from the fishing closure has been realized. Nothing more will be gained by keeping the lake closed to fishig past next spring. There was some discussion at the last meeting on trying to improve the watershed. As it turned out, Clear Lake has a relatively small watershed. The discussion centered on trying to get farmers to install rock tile inlets which are relatively inexpensive. There was some talk of the Club paying for a certain number of the inlets every year until we have them throughout the entire watershed. We also talked about the fishing pier, or lack of one. The DNR does not want a permanent pier. The County Park Board is a little gun shy of floating piers. It would seem that we are on the sidelines of a standoff. At the meeting we also presented a check for \$4300.00 to the DNR to help cover the cost of restocking Clear Lake. This money was raised last summer through our Food Stand and from a \$1,000.00 donation by the Sleepy Eye Sportsmens Club.

14th Annual Ice Fishing Contest will be held February 11, 2001

On February 11, 2001 we will be hosting our 14th Annual Ice Fishing Contest. This year we will again be holding it at Sleepy Eye Lake. We need someone to coordinate the prize committee. Al Zwach did an excellent job last year and has offered to help again this year. Dave Mecklenburg has volunteered to cover Sleepy Eye again this year. We do need someone to be the overall coordinator. you will have plenty of experienced help.



The prizes committee needs to be in place so we can get an early start this year. If anyone has an interest or needs some more information, please contact Mike Deinken at 359-9650.

Ice Fishing Trip set for 2001

Our annual ice fishing trip is set for January 18th to the 21st. We are again going to Dixon Lake Lodge. There is room for aproximately 30 people. The cost will be about the same as last year. You need to get your \$20.00 deposit in now to hold your spot for this unforgettable trip.

Club Calendar

October 26th ---- Meeting at Club House 7:30 p.m. November 30th--- Meeting at Club House 7:30 p.m. January 18-21, 2001---Ice Fishing Trip to Dixon Lake February 11, 2001---Ice Fishing Contest at Sleepy Eye Lake

Food Stand Finale

Our Food Stand made it's final appearance of the year at Texaco Super Stop during the first weekend of Oktoberfest. The weather was not what we would have hoped. It was cold, windy and there were snow showers. Guess what? The people didn't care. We ended up with about \$600 in sales for the weekend. It was another good year for the stand with about \$1800 dollars profit for the summer.

Thanks to Dave Wenk for coordinating for Oktoberfest and to all the guys who worked this summer.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Let me start off with a big thank you to Dick Petermann for his hospitality in hosting the first annual NUASF summer fishing contest. The turn-out could have been better and maybe it was the time of the year, so we will discuss moving it back a bit so more can attend.

Volunteers worked the food booth on the first weekend of Oktoberfest. Needless to say it was cold and sales were down but we still did OK and we will have the results at this meeting.

You will want to be at this next meeting. We have much to discuss regarding beginning a strategy on how we can foster improvements in the Clear lake watershed that will have a positive impact on water quality and fish habitat. We will also discuss our efforts to make the lake more accessable to shore anglers.

We also need to further the process of selecting a prize coordinator for our Winter Fishing Contest. We have some volunteers that have said that they would assist but we need a point person to pull it all together. If that is you, come to the meeting and make it known so we we can start to collect prizes now. Also, if you, or your employer are willing to donate a prize, indicate that now as well, so it can get marked down at this next meeting.

There will be a report at the next meeting on the last cleanup and sign dedication at the Voss salvage yard dump site on the Minnesota River in Belle Plaine. NUSAF members Glen Sletterolm and Tony Miller have coordinated New Ulm volunteers for the clean up.

As I mentioned last month get signed up for the Winter fishing trip as early as possible. Twenty bucks secures your spot for a great time and good fishing on Winnie.

The yearly membership drive is starting to take shape, with several new members joining. Don't forget the NUSAF member that signs up the most new members wins a free jacket. As it stands right now the field is wide open. Let us not forget how important our membership is. You are what makes this club tick. Our strength and effectiveness as an organization is within our diversity of talents as individuals. Let's go get as much talent as we can. See you on the 26th.

Fish Testing Continued from page 3

do not induce VG production until only those that do induce VTG are left.

To accomplish Objective #2, during March and early April, electrofishing has been used to capture walleye during their spawning season to determine fertility of males and the presence of VTG in their blood. Carp will be captured during their spawning season later this year. Fisheries graduate student, James Levitt, is conducting most of the research associated with this objective.

The most extensive work thus far has been done on Objective #3. Preliminary results of laboratory experiements, in which male goldfish were exposed to the Metro STP effluent, suggested little adverse effect on reproduction, even though those fish exhibited elevated levels of circulating vitellogenin.

MCEA will continue to keep readers informed through the Advocacy Update as this research project progresses.

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The NUASF Board

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Fish Testing Below Metro Sewage Plant Underway

by Dr. Ira Adelmanm Ph.D-Professor, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife, University of Minnesota

EDITOR'S NOTE--Several years ago, researchers discovered that male walleye and carp below the Metro Waste Water Treatment Plant were feminizing ---i.e. possessing physical characterisitics normally found only in females.

Concerned, MECA negotiated with the Metropolitan Council to fund research into the problem as part of a lafger settlement involving phos phorus treatment at the plant. The research is ongoing. Dr. Ira Adelman is a status report on this important research.

In April 1999, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services funded a threeyear project at the University of Minnesota on the effects of environmental estrogens on fish in the vicinity of the Metropolitan Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

Dr. Heiko Schoenfuss, Dr. Peter Sorensen and myself in the University of Minnesota's Dept. of Fisheries & Deborah and Dr. Wildlife, Swachkhammer in the University's Dept. of Environmental & Occupational Health are the principal investigators. MCEA was instrumental in acquistion of funding for this project.

Concerns about the potential of endocrine disruption in wildlife or human populations have been raised in the popular press, debated in the scientific literature, and have focused resources on research to understand the problem and assess its impact. Endrocine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) may act like natural hormones and interfere with the biological processes that these hormones control. Reproduction is a biological process very dependent on a number of natural hormones and EDCs may affect those processes.

EDCs have been associated with sewage treatment plants in Europe, and previous studies of fish in the vicinity of the Metropolitan STP have suggested that at least one kind of EDC, estrogenic chemicals---thaose that act like female hormones---are present in the effluent from that plant. However, the mere presence of estrogenic chemicals does not ensure an effect on reproduction of exposed fish.

Evidence of exposure to estrogenic chemcals can be verified by the presence of vitellogenin (VTG) in the blood of male fish. VTG is an egg yolk protein whch is normally found in only females. Male fish are genetically capable of reproducing VTG but they will not do so in the absence of estrogoens. However, we do not know if the mere presence of CTG in males affects their reproductive success and thus is harmful to the long-term sustainability of exposed fish populations.

This research project will attempt to determine the relationship between VTG induction, as an indicator of exposure to environmental estrogens, and adverse effects on fish. The project has three objectives:

One, determine what classes of chemicals in the Metro STP effluent cause CTG induction.

Two, determine the fertility of wild fish obtained in the vicinity of the Metro

Three determine whether exposure to estrogenic compounds reduces the reporductive success of male goldfish in laboratory experiments.

To accomplish Objective #1, an analytical chemistry procedure called Toxicity identification Evaluation is being used to systematically eliminate chemicals in the Metro STP effluent that

Continued on page 2

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