



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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Clear Lake Update

It would appear that winter has finally left us. It was a long, hard winter. Even though we started the aeration system early this year, it seems that we did experience a partial winter kill. Randy Berg, who lives on the lake, took a stroll along the northeast shore and saw crappies and a few bass that had been dead for quite sometime. Let's hope that it was only a partial kill. On the upside, I do believe that Clear Lake was scheduled for some additional stocking this spring.

Clear Lake will be getting a new fishing pier this spring. It will be replacing the one that has given the County so many headaches. We need to thank Orv Rannow for all the work and running he did to get this done. It is being constructed by a local firm and should be in place early this spring. The old pier is still sitting on the beach at the County Park. The Club is now the owner of

that pile of recycled plastic and steel. We have set April 28 at noon as the day and time when we will dismantle the pier and do some cleanup at the lake. We will also be picking up the thin ice signs from wherever they have floated to on the lake. If you can help that day, we can use pickups or trailers to haul the old pier away. Also bring a rake or shovel

to do some cleanup of the swimming beach. It looked pretty bad last fall and the park will get much more use this season. Let's get it looking good right away this spring. We will be hauling the material from the pier to the club grounds that afternoon at which time we will be having lunch.

Minnesota River Cleanup

We have tentatively set for Saturday, May 5th for our annual riverbank cleanup. Meeting place will be Riverside Park at 8:00 a.m. Gloves and garbage bags will be supplied. Be sure to wear rugged clothing and boots. Of course this is all contingent

on the river being back in it's banks. If it is still out, the clean up will be rescheduled for a later date. In either case, we will be going out to to the club grounds that afternoon to do our annual spring clean up. There are some tree branches that came down during the ice storm and also some raking to do. We will also need to rearrange the fish houses for summer. So either way, we will have something to do that Saturday.

Club Calendar

April 26th.....Meeting at Club Grounds 7:30
April 28th.....Clean up at Clear Lake 12:00 noon
May 5th.....River Clean up? Club grounds clean up
May 12th.....Fishing Opener
May 24th.....Meeting - to be announced

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From the President . . .

Well I don't know about you, but this last Winter has made me a little on the nutsy side when it comes to getting out fishing with a rod and reel while I'm sweating from the heat and slappin' mosquitoes.

Fishing opener is right around the corner, so don't forget to pass along to everyone that Clear Lake remains closed until the 1st of July. This is being done to get a second spawn out of the breeding stock that was introduced last spring.

Congratulations are in order to NUASF member Tony Miller. He received the "Leadership" award from the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River at CCMR's annual river banquet last month. He was recognized for his leadership in river advocacy and his extensive involvement in organizing and implementing river bank clean up projects since 1992.

Congratulation are also in order for Mike Deinken. He is this year's recipient of the "Stoney". NUASF gives this award out annually to that member who gives back selflessly in the highest degree to sport fishing. It is an extremely competitive field in which this award is given. I can think of no better example than Mr. Deinken, who I might add is the only 2 time recipient of the "Stoney". Time and time again over the course of participant in countless functions of this organization. Mike as done the tedious, often thankless, necessary functions that makes us clearly a shining star among natural resource organizations in Minnesota. Mike goes crazy if one penny is out of place in his accounting. Mike tracks every goings on of this organization and puts it down on paper. Mike checks the aeration equipment. Mike goes to the Fishing Roundtable every year to represent us and our concerns with sport fishing. Mike hauls his trailer and vehicle loaded with goodies to virtually every function. Hey, I'm only gettin' started. If I wanted to I could write another whole page, but I know you get the idea. I could write many pages about our Board of Directors and other members who have contributed countless hours and we know who you are. Don't think it goes unnoticed. We are blessed with not only Mike and Tony, but with a membership that is "real people" who make a "real difference". No phony baloney, it's put up or shut up. That ain't braggin' Mac, that's just tellin' it like it is.

This next meeting we will have a presentation on Dr. Laurel Gamm's "Putting Green" idea for a unique Environmental Learning Center right here in New Ulm on the banks of the Minnesota River. We have several other items of extreme interest to go over. So show up and make a difference. As always, Mike will go to the store and bring the food like he has done for every meeting since forever. Bring your appetite.

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The NUASF Board

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Sensitivity: Getting the Edge

From an article by John Merwin

Most macho bass guys, and weedy trout types, and even grizzled steelheaders or walleye nuts have the same problem: sensitivity.

This has nothing to do with touchy-feely fad from southern California; instead, we're talking about how best to detect the subtle signals of biting fish.

Unfortunately, tackle manufacturers have turned the idea of sensitivity into a modern snake oil with abundant hype and few specifics. On the plus side, sensitivity in fishing is a skill that can be learned. With practice, you will catch more and larger fish. Here's how to start.



Sensitivity Defined

Whether you're fishing a plastic worm deep for bass or drifting a nymph for trout, you're connected to an unseen lure by your fishing line. If the line is slightly taut and the moving lure hits a rock or a stoomop, you will feel a slight bump. That "feeling" is sensitivity, and it is most dependent on at least slight line tension between you and your lure. If there's a pile of slack line on the surface above your lure or bait, obviously you won't feel a thig. In spite of the stratospheric claims made by most tackle companies, even the most expensive rods, reels and lines are not inherently sensitive. You are. And all you basically have to do is concentrate as you fish paying attention to those thumps and to your fingers. More on sensitivity next month.

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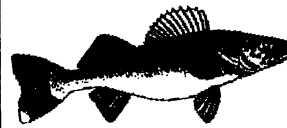

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