



Hook, Line, and Sinker

June
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The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

Lake is in excellent shape

Clear Lake is in excellent shape and the fish are doing great. The fishing pier has been installed and it looks like it will work out great. I am sure there are a lot of people waiting for July 1st

so they can get out and enjoy the lake again. Now that the fishing pier is installed, we need to get the rest of the walkway rebuilt and lined up again. Hopefully we can get it done in one

evening. We have set Wednesday, July 18th as that day. This will get started about 4:00 p.m. The more help we can get, the sooner we get done.

Scholarship Awarded



Joyce Mecklenburg with Andrew Fischer at the New Ulm Senior High School Awards Ceremony.

Fischer, Jr. of New Ulm. A 2001 graduate from New Ulm Senior High School, Andrew was highly recommended for this scholarship. He is an outdoors person that enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, or just observing nature. He will be attending South Dakota State University this fall majoring in wildlife and fisheries sciences.

This scholarship was created last year by the family of Earl Mecklenburg and the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen club. It will be awarded annually to a person planning a career in the environmental field.

Good luck to Andrew with his education and all of his future endeavors.

New Club Jackets Arrive

The new Club Jackets have arrived and do they look good. Anyone who ordered one can pick it up at the next meeting or give Mike a call.

Camp Courage Fishing Trip

On Wednesday, June 20th, we will again be taking a group of kids from Camp Courage fishing. This has become an annual event for us and one that we really look forward to. To see the look on their faces when they catch a fish is something you will not forget.



We get most of the same kids back every year, and they have spent the last year waiting for this day. Help is always needed. Some kids just need a hook baited. Others need more help. It only takes about 1 1/2 hours out of your day and the smiles and laughter are well worth it. This year we will again be going to Studtmann's Pond just south of Courtland. We need to be there by 4:00 p.m. Anyone needing directions can call Mike Deinken at 359-9650.

Food Booth to be open four weekends

We will be operating our Food Booth again this summer at Texaco Super Stop. The stand will be open four weekends. They are Heritagefest and Oktoberfest. If you will be around for any of these dates, we could use your help. We usually run in four hour shifts, so it won't take up your whole day. If you are able to work, please call Mike Deinken or Jerry Carlson.

Club Calendar

- June 20th....Camp Courage Fishing at Studtmann's
- June 28th....Meeting at Club House • 7:30 p.m.
- July 11th....Clear Lake - Repair Walkway at 4:00 p.m.
- July 18th....Kids Fishing Contest at Riverside Park - 4:00 p.m.



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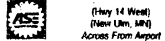
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"PIT STOP" ON FARM TIRE SERVICE

From the President . . .

We have some activities to attend and participate in. On the front page of this issue of the "Hook, Line and Sinker" you will note the dates and times for several of the upcoming deals. Camp Courage is one that I would encourage all to participate in as well as the kids fishing contest. Don't forget about our social night on the second Tuesday of the month.

Make sure to bring a fellow non-club member angler to the next meeting. Craig Borchert is off and running with the membership drive. He leads the pack. As we sign on new members we revitalize our ranks and bring a fresh perspective into our organization. After time and when a new member develops a sense of comfort with us, we see new leadership sprout out to step forward and make a difference. This is what a good organization is about. The willingness to embrace new faces and ideas with a link to our past traditions as a club.

We all learned of our victory in the Big Stone County ditch #2 case at the last meeting. It seems we have once again sent a message that there are people downstream willing to step forward to speak up on behalf of all of us who are the recipients of the water that petitioners propose to get rid of. The Judge and the law recognized that too. As public will increases for dealing with these tough issues, we will see a more concerted effort to address water quantity and quality by those who design projects whose main intent is to get rid of water. Hats off to us!

We heard at the last meeting that brook trout had been once again been stocked in Ft. Ridgley creek. This comes as good news for a couple of reasons. We were told that they would not be stocked there in the future until water quality issues were in the beginning stages of being addressed. Now once again we have a fairly local place to go to a one time natural trout stream and try our luck. Tie those flies or get out the Velveeta.

See you at the next meeting.

Kids Fishing Contest

The Kids Fishing Contest is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. July 18th at Riverside Park. This event has grown by leaps and bounds since the first one. We had over one hundred and thirty kids down at the river last year. We do need help with door prizes for the kids. If you can help collect prizes or would like to donate something contact Ken Sutherland at 354-4140. We also need help that afternoon with registration and cooking hot dogs. If you are able to help, please be at Riverside Park by about 3:30 p.m.

Club Clothing for Sale

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359-9650

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**Hook, Line,
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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).

Mercury: a Little Goes a Very Long Way

By Sam Brungardt / Environment • Winter 2000 • Part I

Neat! This silvery stuff just rolls off my hands and I can rub it on an old penny to make it shiny as a new dime.

A flashback to high school chemistry class 40 years ago, when Mr Elder introduced us to the unique properties of mercury.

Today, it's unlikely that any student will have that chance to play with mercury, now that we know how dangerous this metal can be.

Mercury is a major concern because it poses a health threat. Like water, mercury evaporates very easily. When we inhale the vapor, it goes into the bloodstream. In large doses, this causes mercury poisoning, which affects the nervous system.

And mercury contamination isn't a possibility remote from the average Minnesotan's everyday life. Mercury-containing devices, such as thermometers, barometers, thermostats,

"silent" light switches, fluorescent lamps and blood-pressure gauges, are common in homes. Under some conditions, breaking these devices can result in very high exposure to mercury vapor.

Mercury accumulates in aquatic species

Mercury vapor can lend up in an organic compound, methylmercury, a major contaminant of Minnesota fish. Mercury in emissions from coal-fired power plants and vapors from other sources can be carried long distances in the air before it falls to Earth. Bacteria convert some of the mercury that falls on wetlands, lakes and rivers to methylmercury. The methylmercury builds up in zooplankton (flea-size animals) because their bodies accumulate the methylmercury faster than they can rid themselves of it (it "bioaccumulates"). The zooplankton, in turn, are eaten by other aquatic animals. At each level of the food chain, the concentration of methylmercury at least trebles. Any animal--wildlife or human--that eats fish at the top of the food chain may get a big dose.

If a pregnant woman eats a lot of methylmercury-contaminated fish, her fetus may be damaged. A National Search Council committee recently estimated that about 60,000 children may be born in the nation each year with neurological problems that could lead to poor school performance because of exposure to methylmercury in the womb.

(See <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309071402/html/index.html>).

Infants and children can also be at high risk from contaminated fish and possibly breast milk.

(See <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/esa/hra/fishfact/fishcont.html>).

Since the flesh of large, predatory fish such as walleye and pike, is likely to contain high levels of methylmercury, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, has issued fish-consumption advisories for many lakes.

(See <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/fca/index.html>). The advisories suggest that people who eat fish likely to have accumulated methylmercury limit their intake, an apt warning for populations that use fish as a major food source.

The toxicity and persistence of this silvery metal makes its reduction a top priority in environmental protection.

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