



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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NUASF / E.E. Mecklenburg Environmental Scholarship awarded to four recipients

Six years ago, the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen (NUASF) club joined with the family of Earl E. Mecklenburg to form a scholarship for students interested in a career in the environmental field.

For new club members who need a little background, Earl Mecklenburg was the father of one of our longtime members, Dave Mecklenburg. Dave's dad grew up on a farm in Milford Township and moved to New Ulm as an adult. In addition to his family and many friends, education and the environment were very important to him. Earl loved to read and always stressed to his family the value of a good education. During his lifetime, he enjoyed being outdoors, whether it was for fishing, hunting, or just observing nature. After Earl died in 1998, his family wanted to create a scholarship to honor his memory and Dave asked the club if we would be willing to participate. Since our club is involved in many activities supporting environmental causes, we welcomed the opportunity.

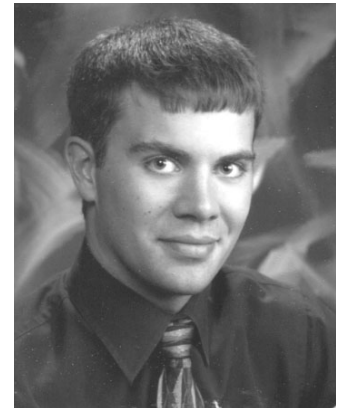
Every year the Mecklenburg family makes a sizable donation and our club has voted to match that donation. In addition, individual club members have generously chosen to donate \$5 when renewing their memberships. As a result, the scholarship has grown to the point that this year the committee was able to dis-



Seth Schaefer

tribute two \$500 scholarships and two \$250 scholarships to area students.

\$500 was awarded to Seth Schaefer, a graduate of New Ulm Senior High School. Seth, the son of Don and Diana Schaefer, plans to attend Minnesota State University Mankato, studying plants, animals and hydrology. A possible major would be as a research biologist. Seth grew up on a farm by the Little Cottonwood River and had ample opportunity to be outside and in the woods. He is an active hunter, trapper, fisherman, and animal observer. Some of the numerous things that Seth has done include building woodduck houses and placing them along the Little Cottonwood River; building pheasant, turkey, and deer feeders, placing them in CRP and grasslands and then caring for them; participating in river clean ups; doing controlled burning on his family's natural prairie land; and attending DNR seminars at Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center.



Eric Benson

Seth feels that without a clean, balanced environment, the outdoor activities he loves would not be possible. Therefore, he intends to make it his life's work to be a good steward of the land.

The other \$500 scholarship went to Eric Benson, a graduate of

Continued on page 3

NUASF Web site: newulmsportfish.org --- check it out!

Club Calendar

July 28th..... Meeting at the Club House - 7:30 p.m.
August 11th..... Social Night at the Club House, 6:00 p.m.
August 11th - 14th..... Fishing Trip to Waubay
August 25th..... Meeting at the Club House - 7:30 p.m.
September 17th..... Club Fishing Contest at Dick Petermann's on the river



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From the President. . .

If you have not had much time to get out and go fishing, you better get in gear. The summer is half over and the fishing is starting to get good especially on the Minnesota River.

I just had the opportunity to go out with a reporter from the Outdoor News, Colin Williams. We didn't get anything too big, because we were not out at the time when bigger fish typically bite, but we did get incredible numbers and 8 different kinds of fish. I'll tell you we weren't chasing all over the place to find action either. We fished right in the city limits of New Ulm. He said he hasn't had so much fun since the pigs ate his little brother. Anyway suffice it to say another set of eyes were opened to the joys of the river that day and it once again reinforced what I have observed for years. That is if you get someone out on that river who has not experienced it before and just take a little time a patience to show them how it's done you will have a convert for life. That is really the case with locals. I know a lot of people who would love to go but just never get prodded enough to go. It sometimes takes a little reassurance that the river itself doesn't bite.

As many of you are aware we will be having elections this October for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Board of Directors position. If you or anyone you know in the club wishes to be nominated, we are excepting nominations at meetings until then. Either submit your nomination on paper or notify our Secretary Mike Deinken at the meeting. Voting will take place at the October meeting.

This next meeting we will cover a number of things and update our membership drive and see how close we are to making our 200 member goal. We will have various updates and also begin to strategize for Riverblast. As the only food vendor at the event which continues to grow each year, we will need to be extremely organized to insure that the food needs will be met as well as they were last year. Those who wish to participate will need to sign up and state what specifically they are willing to do. Expectations for the event will be made crystal clear at the next meeting, as well as in August. So plan on being at the next meeting and bring a friend or guest and receive a beverage of your choice for you and your companion. Who knows, it may get you one step closer to that fish house.

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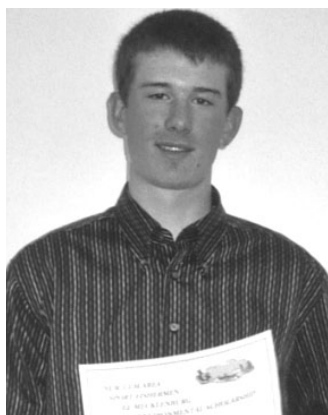
The NUASF Board

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).

Scholarships continued from page 1)

GFW High School in Winthrop. Eric is the son of Merlin and Linda Benson and he will be attending Bemidji State University with hopes of becoming a DNR Conservation Officer. Eric was involved in several volunteer activities during his high school years, including helping to clean up the Minnesota River and running a trap and skeet shoot with the Winthrop Area Sportsman's club. Among his many achievements, Eric earned the International Science Fair Award for three years. Since he was a freshman in high school, Eric has been interested in the DNR. He has even done a couple of ride-alongs with the DNR officers of Sibley and Mcleod counties. Eric loves to hunt and fish and is concerned about helping to save the earth's natural resources. He hopes to be able to do that by working toward enforcing the laws that have been set in place to protect our natural habitat. He will be majoring in criminal justice and minoring in environmental science.

A \$250 scholarship was awarded to Andrew Renner who graduated this year from Nicollet High School. Andrew is the son of Tim Renner and Kelly Renner and he will



Andrew Renner

be attending Bemidji State University studying biology. He is a long time member of the Nicollet Conservation Club and is an avid outdoorsman. Andy has helped clean ditches, plant trees at his school, and promotes recycling and reducing pollution. He loves being outside, enjoys fishing and is interested in wildlife conservation. Andy's goal is to encourage current, as well as future generations, to respect and conserve our natural resources and wildlife.

Joe Piehl was the recipient of the other \$250 scholarship. The son of Jerry and Robin Piehl, Joe graduated from St. Mary's High School in Sleepy Eye. He plans to attend Iowa Lakes Community College studying Natural Resources and Recreational Management. Joe remembers becoming interested in nature around age 7, when he received his first hunting dog. Since then he has been exposed to many learning experiences regarding safety and conservation. He is a member of the Deer Hunter's Association, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and the Minnesota Waterfowl Association. He has collected poultry of various kinds for the past decade. Recently, Joe was featured in an article in the Sleepy Eye Herald about his interest in poultry. He keeps an incubator that holds 400 eggs and sells or trades most of the eggs and birds the way others might trade comic books. Recently three of his brown leghorn chickens passed the auditions to appear in a national commercial for the Perkins restaurant chain. Joe intends to continue being active in environmental causes while attending school in Iowa.



Joe Piehl and Dave Mecklenburg

Our congratulations to these four young men and best wishes for their future education and environmental pursuits.

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