



Hook, Line, and Sinker

April 2006
Volume 16
Issue 4

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen • P.O. Box 294 • New Ulm, MN 56073

Web Site: newulmsportfish.org.

E. E. MECKLENBERG SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Up-date

The NUASF donate money to many worthwhile causes. Just at last months meeting we gave out \$1300.00. The E.E. Mecklenberg Scholarship Fund is one of our best opportunities to provide a healthier environment for future generations by providing dollars for students going into environmental studies.

The committee has received three applications with the deadline for getting applications in bring April 26th. They will be reviewing the candidates and awarding the scholarships in May. It may have gotten last at our last meeting but over \$5000.00 has already been awarded since the scholarship since inception.

Club House Clean Up

Each year in spring we try spiff up the clubhouse grounds and clubhouse. We'll be doing that before this months meeting on April 27th. If you're able to help, meet at the grounds around 4:00pm with lawn tools and gear.

NUASF Twenty year celebration

Club History

Our twenty-year celebration is going to be a great opportunity to show everyone what our club is all about. It's been 20 years of service and steady growth. We need help organizing our clubs history so we

can make a nice presentation for the program. We'll be working on it at every social night till we hold the celebration on the 8th in July. Anyone that can spare some time please come and do what you can.



Club Calendar

April 2.....	Ducks, Wetlands Rally 8:30 a.m. N.U. Bus Lines
April 27 th	Clubhouse Clean Up @ Club 4:00p.m.
April 27 th	Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 p.m.
May 11 th	Social Night at the Clubhouse 6:30 p.m.
May 25 th	Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30p.m.
July 8 th	20 year Celebration at Turner Hall
July 19 th	Kids Fishing Contest-Riverside Park



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From the President. . .

I don't know about you, but I'm definitely ready to do some spring fishing. My summer tackle box looks like a twister went through it from last fall, so I have some sorting out to do. I think this might be the year I get some of that old stuff I never use anymore out of my box and into a second backup box so I can find something when I'm digging around. I'm also putting new line on all my reels. I do that every year just in case I do happen to hook that real big one, you know the one with the thick glasses on about to die of old age.

Over the past three years I have had the privilege of attending one of the most interesting and important events put on regarding this state's surface water. It is called the Minnesota Shallow Lakes Conference. This two day event was held this year at the Willmar Holiday Inn Convention Center. Experts and professionals working with water from across the state have converged each of the last 3 years to share information and strategies on how shallow lake management techniques can be applied to improve our ever declining water quality in them. At times I have to say it was quite discouraging and depressing, but I remain a "glass half full" guy. I was a panelist and a presenter at this year's event and as such we were given thought provoking questions to respond to. One of the questions we were asked to discuss went something like this: If best management practices on land are in place or not feasible for numerous reasons are serious interventions such as drawdowns, wholesale fisheries manipulations, alum applications our only option for improvement or maintenance? Having seen the drastic improvements first hand that these serious interventions can have, my comments were, yes it is doable with a definite caveat. If we rely on only this approach we will surely fail within a period of 2 to 4 years if watershed best management practices are not implemented on the land. In the case where they are not feasible or being adhered to for whatever reason, we need to develop either policy that forces it, or new runoff management approaches that property owners will readily adopt that have not been developed or that we are simply not aware of. Believe me; the technology to meter water within our tile drainage systems is out there. It's fairly new but I have seen presentations on it numerous times. My question is why it is not being installed everywhere it is practical. One answer is always the same, money. Where is the incentive to do the practice? One incentive that has been show over and over is that this literally raises the sub-surface water table up to where emerging row crops root systems can access the water to grow faster. It also allows the crop producer to do the metering with a device that is easy to manipulate. You would think during low precipitation years this would also be a plus to have that aquifer higher when you need it. But alas the unit is not being installed at a wholesale scale and we are back to who's going to pay and even then, if I don't have to do it why should I, things are fine for me as they are.

Another real good presentation at this year's conference was given by Chris Niskanen, outdoor columnist for the St. Paul Pioneer Press. He talked a great deal about the issue of dedicated funding for natural resources and the legislative initiative to put it on this year's election ballot for consideration as a 3/8ths of a cent hike in the state sales tax to raise money for clean water. We have all seen the headlines in the papers regarding what is chosen to lead or dominate the so-called news. Let's see, gay

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The Hook Line and Sinker is published monthly by Joyce Reese graphic design 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 New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, P.O. Box 294, New Ulm, MN 56073.

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marriage (of which we already have a ban on), Brittany Spears and driving a car with her baby in her lap, Michael Jackson refinancing his Neverland Ranch, Barry Bonds alleged steroid use and on and on until we are so numb from it all we don't listen to when something really is important. Niskanen pointed out the impressive machine that went into full forward when the Defense of Marriage Act was introduced to the legislature. He said literally every church bulletin in the state had something on or about it in it, with a directive on how to act on it. He questioned where that same community is at when clean water, the most essential part God's creation, is in serious jeopardy. He wondered where our priorities were at. So did I, so I had an opportunity to comment and put it right back on those in parts of the media who fill our daily lives with all that trivial entertainment styled so-called news. That's not to mention where is the inclusion on regular Sunday services about God's creation and its management that we have been put in charge of? It is typically a once a year lip service around Earth Day or Stewardship Week and if your lucky a project that will involve a handful of people. This is clearly an area that needs attention because I fear that we are fiddling while Rome is burning. The good news is the fire is just getting started and we have time to put it out if we open our eyes and vote with our brains at least once in a while. Hey, ask your elected reps or find out where they stand on natural resource issues. Because without the use of our natural surroundings (the Earth as we know it) all the societal economic issues are pretty much a moot point if we don't have someplace to live in a healthy setting.

This next meeting will be a good one to come and watch everyone get that crazed look in their eye as talk of fishing goes around the room. We have several things of importance to hash over as usual and reports of interest to all club members. We will be discussing progress on plans for our 20 year celebration at Turner Hall this July 8th so if you have not marked your calendar for this fun filled evening, make sure to do so. Our only committee (Scholarship) will be giving us an update on applicants and more. We will have updates on progress from the county land donation deal with the DNR regarding the land next to the Cottonwood River near Sleepy Eye. Minnesota River news and state legislative updates that affect our surface water will be on tap. We will also have a report on the Community Clean Up for Water Quality Project from last month, as well as a whole host of other topics including our usual organizational updates. So bring a friend and get a free beverage of your choice for both you and your guest. See you at the next meeting.

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