



# Hook, Line, and Sinker

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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](http://newulmsportfish.org).

## NUASF 20 year Anniversary

By Ross Nelson

This will be the last newsletter before our 20-year Anniversary Celebration: *"Since 1986 – A Legacy of Dreams and Actions Committed to Improve Fishing in the New Ulm Area"*.

I think the theme perfectly states what we've tried to accomplish over the last 20 years.

Come one, come all, it should be one great time!!!

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**"Since 1986 – A legacy of Dreams and Actions Committed to Improve Fishing in the New Ulm Area"**



**Saturday, July 8, 2006**

**Turner Hall, New Ulm**

**4:30 p.m.**

**Doors Open - Social Hour**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Program**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Meal + (Free beer & pop all evening.)**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Entertainment—Murphy Brothers Band**

**Cost**

**\$25 per couple / \$15 per person**

## NEWS AND COMMENT

### Mercury – How does it get into fish?

By Scott Sparlin

I have been asked this question numerous times and I thought I would write to help clarify the process of how this potentially harmful element gets into fish tissue.

It starts with emissions from both natural and mostly artificial sources such as coal fired power plants. The mercury washes out of the air with rain and hits both land and water. That is important to remember, land is also a big part of the equation. Because of these emissions over the past 100 years, the first 4 inches or so of our topsoil contains higher amounts of the element and can accumulate over time until a substantial rain event happens that allows transport to a body of surface water.

In the mud of lakes, rivers and wetlands live bacteria that convert about 10 percent of this mercury into an organic compound called methylmercury. This compound is readily absorbed by the digestive systems of animals and people.

Microscopic animals in the water ingest the methylmercury as they feed on algae and bacteria. These tiny creatures are eaten by small fish, which are eaten by progressively larger fish and on up the aquatic food chain. At each level, the concentration of the compound in the flesh of fish increases threefold or more in a process called "biomagnification."

As a result, the highest concentrations of methylmercury are found in large predator fish such as northern pike, walleye and bass. Eating these fish gives a much higher exposure to mercury than eating small, young predators or pan fish such as blue

**continued on page 3**

## Club Calendar

|                       |                                                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| June 21 <sup>st</sup> | .....Camp Courage-Studtmanns Pond 9:30 a.m.               |
| June 29 <sup>th</sup> | .....Meeting at the Club House 7:30 p.m.                  |
| July 8 <sup>th</sup>  | .....20 Year Celebration at Turner Hall 4:30 p.m.         |
| July 13 <sup>th</sup> | .....Social/Sign Fix up Night at the Club House 4:30 p.m. |
| July 19 <sup>th</sup> | .....Kids Fishing Contest at Riverside Park               |
| July 27 <sup>th</sup> | .....Meeting at the Club House 7:30 p.m.                  |



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## From the President. . .

Don't forget that Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> is the day of Camp Courage's fishing outing to Studtmann's Pond in Courtland. The big change is from an afternoon outing that we have had in the past, to 9:30 A.M. This is being done so that some campers who have not been able to go before can go now. It was also suggested by the coordinators that temperatures might be cooler in the morning. I know this eliminates many who have to work but for those of you that are able for whatever reason I would encourage you to participate. Please contact me at 507 359 2346 and leave a message if you are planning to attend.

I have received quite a bit of feedback on my editorial in the last newsletter. If you have not had a chance to read it, please do and let me know your feelings on the subject. I am considering putting it on the agenda for greater discussion so don't be surprised if it comes up. So far most of the feedback has been in support of my observations and recommendations for changes. If you think otherwise or didn't get a chance to read it, it is posted on our web site.

I have been fishing several times out on the Minnesota River and have had good fishing each time out. There are a lot of white bass in the river of all sizes that are surfacing near the shoreline no doubt feeding on mayflies. I have caught some decent size carp that always remind me of how feisty and fun they are to grapple with. The Freshwater Drum and Suckers of several varieties are also active along with a ton of Channel Catfish under 3 lbs. I got a couple Walleye and one Sauger upstream of New Ulm this past week and a Sturgeon around 3 lbs. It doesn't seem to matter if you are using crawlers or minnows the bite is non-stop if you are in the right places with the right tackle. The river levels are perfect and there is little in the way of floaters, but you should always be looking. If you go, prepare to catch a lot of fish and bring a net or you'll be changing hooks a lot. If you have never fished the rivers here you are missing out. It's not that complicated and boat travel is never an issue if you take your time. The black flies and gnats are out so I would bring bug spray and wear long pants if you can stand it. Pure vanilla extract will definitely work for the gnats. A cigar is disgusting to some but is also effective in keeping bugs and everyone else away.

Our June meeting will be a good one, so don't forget to bring a friend or someone you know who might be a good addition to our organization. If you do, we will treat you and that person to a free beverage of your choosing on us. See you at the next meeting.

### Newsletter by e-mail form

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## Hook, Line, and Sinker

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.**

#### The NUASF Board

President - Scott Sparlin (359-2346); Vice-President - Jerry Carlson (354-8869); Secretary - Ross Nelson (354-8458) Treasurer - Tony Miller (354-2457); Board Members: Jim Huelke (354-3654), Dave Mecklenburg (794-7859), Ken Sutherland (354-4140).

## Mercury Continued from page 1

gills or perch. Consequently, you can eat small fish more often than large predators. Since methylmercury is bound to the proteins in the flesh of the fish, there is no method of cleaning or cooking the fish that can remove it that we know of at this time.

Mercury levels in water and sediments are up to 4 times higher than 100 years ago. One might expect fish contamination to be the same. There is evidence that sulfate-contaminated rain (acid rain) over the last century has increased methylmercury, so that fish in some lakes were up to 10 times more contaminated than they were prior to industrialization.

At a time when renewable or unlimited energy sources of all shapes and sizes are being genuinely explored for uses on mass scales, it's advantageous for us to know what the complete and applicable potential for improvement to our natural resources are and how they apply to each of us. If we take the lead, the rest of the world will follow, consequently buying that better mousetrap idea from us making everyone including the earth a winner.

### Thank You to the Nilson Family

With our 20 year celebration coming up in July this may be a good time to thank the Nilson family for allowing us to lease what is one of the best spots around. Just reflect how lucky we are to have such a beautiful setting available for our meetings and social events.

### Keep our grounds beautiful

Keeping the grounds beautiful is important and we need help mowing the lawn. Anyone that can spare some time it would be appreciated. Contact Scott or Ross if you're in need of a key to get into the grounds. Remember you can purchase a key for a \$1, it will get you into the grounds, sheds, and even into the fish houses in the winter.

### MN River History and Information Center

The MN River History and Information Center is also in need of some help. Scott has been putting a lot of time cleaning and fixing and now is at a point where he can use some hands painting. The center is located at Riverside Park in the old Franklin School building. Plans are to have the center open for use when we hold River Blast, contact Scott if you want to find out some time.

### Thin Ice Signs

The thin ice signs were picked up on Clear Lake in early May, (we have close to 80) and many of them were in very poor condition. They all need a paint job, some need new screws, reflector signs, or wood replaced. We may not need to make any new ones or very few.

The Clean Lake aeration project has always been one of our pets. These signs will have to be repaired before next year because the law requires them around open water. So, now is as good a time as any, July 13th around 4:30 has been set for a "Fix Up Party" at the clubhouse. Mike Deinken is going to gather the supplies we need to repair them. If you plan on helping please bring some tools; we'll probably need them.

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# 3M

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