



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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

Web Site: newulmsportfish.org

NUASF MEMBERSHIP

Membership isn't rising

By Ross Nelson

We're already into May, water and air temperatures are rising and good fishing can't be far behind. What doesn't seem to be rising is our membership. Currently we're at 163 mem-

bers (18 due) but we've only signed up 3 new members since we started our new membership drive in January.

Remember that Eric Olson has donated a 4-day pheasant hunting trip for 2 people to the member who

enrolls the most new members.

New members have always been our lifeblood. Providing new ideas, skills and valuable manpower our organization can use in many ways.

Marti's Landing Report

At our last couple of meetings we've had a report from Jeff Nielsen regarding some land located by the Cottonwood River on County Hwy 10, better known as Marti's Landing. The county currently owns the land, but they are considering selling it to highest bidding private owners. The DNR

is in the process of doing an appraisal of the land or will be very shortly.

At our meeting in February we made a club resolution requesting the county keep the land in public (county or state) ownership, and sent it to the count board. Several other organizations apparently have done the same thing. If you have an opportuni-

ty, talk to your county commissioners and urge them to vote in favor of keeping this pristine section of the Cottonwood River available for all to enjoy.

Kids' Fishing Contest

We'll be sponsoring another "Kids Fishing Contest" this year July 19th at Riverside Park. Ken Sutherland will again head the event and I'm sure he would appreciate getting a head start on gathering prizes and give away items. In years past we've sometimes had over 100 kids participate. It's always great fun for the kids and us.

Commentary

By Scott Sparlin

I would like you all to consider fishing regulations as we know them and do some introspective thinking on the future of our outdoor sport. When you are done I would like you all to form an opinion not just on my ramblings, but on what I hope will spark you into researching related areas and discussions with others.

Let me start off by saying that I believe that DNR Fisheries is doing a great job given the tools and some of the people they have to work with and mostly for (ya' that would be you and me). Could there be improvements? You bet and I will throw my

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Club Calendar

May 11 thSocial/Club History Night at the Club House 6:30 p.m.
May 25 thMeeting at the Club House 7:30 p.m.
June 8 thSocial/Club History Night at the Club House 6:30 p.m.
June 29 thMeeting at the Club House 7:30 p.m.
July 8 th20 Year Celebration at Turner Hall
July 19 thKids Fishing Contest at Riverside Park



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From the President. . .

Extended spring flooding this year will no doubt increase the chances for big catfish and walleye migration in the Minnesota River. It also bodes well for a good hatch of young northern and walleye upstream. So many of the areas that used to be farmed are grassy areas now water covered during this critical period enabling fish to use them for spawning areas. Not to mention many tributaries have a lot of water in them right now which is a recipe for a great spawn. I guess like anything time will tell the story.

Big flathead cats will be caught up and down the river downstream from Granite Falls; there are no flatheads above there because of the dam. One of the reasons you don't see a lot of bullheads in the river around New Ulm is because of the large flathead population we enjoy. Bullheads are a real taste treat for flatheads who eat them every chance they get. My apologies to Franklin, but I have seen and heard of many more and larger flatheads that have been caught in the New Ulm area of the Minnesota than there. I have never heard of any fish coming from Franklin over 55 lbs. and I know of several every year that get caught around here. It is actually pretty common place for flatheads in the 40 plus lb. range to be caught in our area. I suppose because of the marketing of the catfish derby days they get their time in the sun, and rightfully so. Let's hope the new regulations will protect these trophy fish for years to come. It wasn't many years ago that those big beauties just got butchered up and smoked. They have really become a sought after game fish in recent years and that is witnessed by out state anglers that frequent the New Ulm area regularly who go virtually unnoticed by most locals.

As far as walleyes go I am hoping the shad population will have cut us a little break and will be down from last year. I think that really put a damper on winter fishing in the river, along with the warm winter runoff that was in the river for the most part of the season. They (the walleye) should be fattened up and hungry.

All of the other species in the river will be in good numbers this year as well and ready for some great angling. Sheephead and suckers in May are particularly active and really make for some good fun. All you need for them is a small hook and angleworms or a kernel of corn. Look for sandy and rocky areas that's where they typically hang out and by the way remember if you find the sheephead the walleye are not usually too far behind.

Don't forget about social night the second Thursday of the month. Right now we will be working on our program for our 20 year celebration in July during social night. If you have any stories from our past that you think should be included or anecdotes on the club, don't hesitate to bring them up.

This next meeting will be a chance to share true fish stories from your

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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).

From the President Continued from page 2

opening day or May fishing outing experiences. I look forward to harrowing tales of grandiose proportions on the ones that got away and those that were actually seen and never caught.

We also have important business to cover as always, so bring a friend and introduce them to the club. You will be rewarded for doing so by enjoying a free refreshment of your choice upon arrival. The membership drive is off and running with a wide open field and a great prize for the member who signs up the most new members over the course of this next year. Remember we need your input at every meeting to ensure that we have examined all sides of the issues and all angles of the decisions to be made that are so important to the on-going work of our organization. The grill will be going and we'll be waitin' for 'ya.

Commentary Continued from Page 1

unscientific two cents for what it's worth into the mix at the risk of sounding simplistic and layman in my comments, which by the way often brings us full circle in our various approaches to dealing with the everyday challenges of this world.

Having said that here goes and please keep an open mind; I know slot limits work to a degree, but I think they intimidate the passive angler, the elderly angler, the potential new angler, the female angler and the youth angler. At best to a seasoned angler, it is a nuisance that they put up with for the hope of better fishing in the future. Fine, so what could possibly be used to accomplish a sustainable quality fish population in stead of measuring fish all the time and throwing back fish that will potentially die because of poor handling and stress?

Allow me a few observations. Ask yourself when do the bulk of the people who fish 2-5 times a year go fishing? Answer, opening weekend until about the middle of June and maybe once in the winter (MN Department of Tourism has numbers and surveys have confirmed). The time of the year I hear most people talk of catching a limit of walleye is in that time frame, especially those who only go a couple times a year. So having said that why not try limiting fish take to 3 walleye of any size and 3 in possession. Then after July 1st go to 6 in possession until February to appease the resort owners. That way someone from out of state could go home with 6 walleye of any size after July 1st. When you catch a limit of walleye, the average angler typically quits fishing, so mortality is not the issue it is with slot limits. I think it is at the least worth a try on some lakes to let it play out and compare the results with slot limits. After reading all the confusing and lengthy regulations I am convinced we are on the wrong path. Fishing shouldn't be as confusing as it is for many or intimidating to anyone. No one should be afraid of not reading and understanding regulations for fear of the conservation officer giving them a ticket for not getting it. I think it's time to get back to the KISS factor for managing the general public's fishing habits.

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