



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

2007

Ice Fishing Contest

Contest date February 11th

By Ross Nelson

This will be our 20th Annual Ice Fishing Contest and as we all know it's the largest fundraiser for the club each year. If every member sells one book of tickets we could have a record year and use that money for many worthwhile projects.

As in years past Eric Olson is donating a summer Canadian fishing trip for 2 to his camp by Lake Diefenbaker, Saskatchewan. The club is giving away an ice auger, a Frabill portable fish house and 5-\$50 savings bonds plus much more. Frabills new model for the year is called the "Glide Trax". They call it innovative and they are correct, it's a beauty. Check it out on their web site

www.frabill.com.

Thanks again this year, as every year, to Eric Olson for his donation, also to Running's and Frabill for the great deals they gave us for the contest. Tickets will be available at the next meeting, or contact Ross Nelson (354-8458) if you can't make the meeting. Let's make sure we go out and SELL! SELL! SELL!

LIQUID ASSETS

By Bruce Johnson, Minnesota Waters' Executive Director

We've seen the polls—Americans support clean water. As many as 95% say a healthy environment is important. Focus groups tell us one of the first things folks say they like about Minnesota is the water. Lakes and streams refresh us, offer solitude and create lifetime memories.

Those values are a prominent feature in Minnesota's economic portfolio. Tourism is a \$9.2 billion industry—greater than agriculture. Anglers spend \$1 billion in Minnesota each year—\$350 million more than annual sales at Mall of America. Lakeshore property values rise and fall with the health of the lake. There's one boat for every five Minnesotans.

These facts are well known within our state agencies and in the State Legislature. Yet, although only a fraction of our lakes and streams have been tested for meeting water quality standards, over 2000 lakes and stream segments are listed as "impaired" (polluted and therefore of limited use). How is it we've lost 60% of our wetlands—one of the primary filters of our lakes and streams? How did we let 35% of Minnesota's primary recreational lakes become infested with aquatic invasive species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Curlyleaf pondweed, and zebra mussels? Why have state expenditures on the environment dropped 50% to a mere 1% of its budget over the last few years?

Public surveys show that many of us aren't worried about environmental issues because we think it's being taken care of. Laws have been passed, government agencies created, money spent...someone's

doing something about it, right?

Wrong. For a variety of reasons, many of the laws passed are not enforced or only partially so. In too many places variances from the rules are the norm, not the exception. Some of rules are outdated. Most are under funded. Some are mired in complacency, controlled by a bureaucracy that is rewarded for defending the status quo rather than innovation.

—Those whose business it is to manage our communities are plenty worried about our liquid assets. The League of Minnesota Cities 2006 "State of the Cities" Report states::

Where and how growth will occur in the decades to come will be determined by decisions made today about how Minnesota's public policies address the need for clean water.

Passing a law or creating an institution to clean up and protect our waterways is merely a milestone on the journey to clean water, not the end. For the same reason, we don't drop our kids off at school or church and drive away thinking "someone else is taking care of it." We do everything we can to make sure they are sheltered, fed and clothed so they can do their best. We remain diligent about doing their homework and set them back on course when they make poor choices.

So, too, must we remain diligent. Managing a community asset is complex and challenging, and our liquid assets are no exception. Our communities are not getting adequate resources to manage a critical piece of their infrastructure—the lakes, streams and the lands that surround them (watersheds). Even if they were, it's up to us to make sure those resources are spent wisely in implementing programs and enforcing regulations that improve what's been damaged and preserve what's in good shape. That's our responsibility—yours and mine—not someone else's.

Don't wait for a river to catch fire or a lake to become biologically dead to act.

Continued on page three

Club Calendar

Nov 30 th	Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30pm
Dec 14 th	Social Night at the Clubhouse 6:30pm
Dec.28 th	Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30pm
Jan 11 th	Social Night at the Clubhouse 6:30pm
Jan 25 th	Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30pm



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From the President. . .

By Scott Sparlin

Our tickets for our annual ice fishing contest will be available at this next meeting so make sure to attend in person and pick them up. This of course is our biggest fund raiser of the year and advance ticket sales are critical to the success of the event in February. Prizes are set and the phenomenal prize coordinating team of Dave Mecklenburg and Chuck Zangl has once again been enthusiastically approved by the membership. So collecting prizes will be a challenge as always and members are encouraged to contact NUASF board member Dave (contact is listed in the Hook Line and Sinker) for the plan to canvass the area for potential prizes for us. If you have prizes personally or are willing to go out to collect be sure to let them know the deal. In talking with Al Zwach, Frabill Co. and others have already been very generous in their support of us in the past and have done so once again in a big way. He stated to me that they are very aware of the good works the club is involved with and want to see it continue down the road for many years. We also thank NUASF member Eric Olson, Havre Montana for his continued generous support of our efforts in offering our grand prize to entrants. So let's make this year the biggest and best of all of our contests and bring on the cold weather after about the 15th of December or so (should be done selling Christmas trees by then), maybe it will even take care of those pesky Asian beetles.

It appears our riverbank clean up (first one in three years) was a success along with the club grounds maintenance. Only three small pickup loads of garbage were found from our stretch of the river along with the Eckstein landing area. This is a true testament to changing attitudes towards the river which is in stark contrast to the early and mid 1990's when we would find complete house remodeling project garbage to water heaters, cars, gallons and barrels of used oil, tires beyond belief, stoves, refrigerators, yard waste and a whole host of other interesting items including the kitchen sink and deer carcasses. Our club can be proud of the progress made in this area along with our past partners at 3M RRAT's. We thank them for their support of this year's event and the club thanks the many volunteers that helped at this year's event at both the river and at the club grounds.

I wanted to talk you briefly about the new Regional River History and Information Center located at the old Franklin School that is presently in the development phase. Prior to Riverblast I was approached by outdoor natural resources explorer and photography icon Ron Bolduan, who recently coordinated the photo and art contest at this year's Riverblast, (which by the way was real good if you didn't see it). Well, it turns out that Ron shares recognition of the great potential for the center as much as I and many others do. Ron has expressed a keen interest in becoming a key point person for the collection and dissemination of articles and artifacts to be displayed at the building, as well as being an interpreter and spokesperson. He envisions delivering his fantastic programs at the center as a way to expose the general public, including tourists, to the entire place as a unique and fun experience. I certainly share his vision and will also be utilizing the building to give my musical environmental program that I have been presenting all over the watershed in schools and at meetings for the past 17 years. Together we hope to deliver a great one two punch for the natural resources of the region, with a strong water quality message for any age group. I am excited at the opportunity to engage Ron and welcome his incredible talents to the entire effort that will be on-going down at Riverside Park in New Ulm. Assets in a community should not be gauged by only those things we can touch and possess, but more so by the people that frequent our lives in and around there. See you at the next meeting.

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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).

River Clean Up

Club members gathered at Riverside Park on Oct 21st to walk up and down the banks of the Minnesota River to pick up what ever shouldn't be there. It's been 3 years since we have done this project and it was rewarding to find much less to pick-up then you would expect. Three pickup loads were taken to Waste Management, about 10 tires and a bunch of wood pallets were also collected.

It would be great to think that what our club has done in its words and actions, may have had a hand in the way people are treating the river.

Cottonwood River Land Purchase

Over the last several months we have been reporting updates about the section of land owned by the county on the Cottonwood River by Cty Rd 10. The county has been considering selling the piece to private ownership. County commissioners voted 3-2 at their last meeting to sell the land to the DNR. It's a wise decision made for all the currant residents and future generations of Brown County. The purchase will allow all of us the ability to enjoy its natural beauty forever.

Meeting Notes

The club made a donation of \$250 to the High Island Lake restoration project and also pledged \$500 for the construction of a new pier at Mound Creek County Park.

The Sleepy Eye Sportsmen Club is sponsoring a trip to the yearly ice fishing seminar in the Twin Cities at River Center. The Bus leaves Runnings parking lot Dec. 3rd at 8:30 a.m. and returns at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$21.00, which includes the bus trip and seminar ticket.

Please remember our newsletter is available via email. Anyone receiving their letter by mail may wish to consider switching to email to save the club the expense of postage and printing. Get your info to Mike Studtmann or Ross Nelson; there is also a form in each month's newsletter.

Membership update as of Oct 26th - 152 members. Joel Albrecht still leads the membership drive with 5 new members signed.

LIQUID ASSETS from page one

Regularly attend your local plan commission meetings, city council, water planning and/or watershed district board of managers meetings—even when the wetland in your backyard isn't on the agenda. Read your community's long range plans and ask whether or not they're actually being implemented. Too big a task? Ask your friends and neighbors to share the load.

That cars heading out of the city on Friday afternoon aren't rushing to parking lots. More and more Minnesotans realize that managing our shared assets means commitment to Minnesota's waters.

Bruce Johnson has been Minnesota Waters' executive director since January 2006 and its interim director since 2005. During his six-year tenure directing the Rivers Council of Minnesota, he helped win the Initiative Foundation's 2004 Outstanding Nonprofit Organization Award. Bruce and his family live in Sartell, where he serves as a member of the Park Commission and the Youth Board of Salem Lutheran Church. For more information: www.Minnesotawaters.org.

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