



# Hook, Line, and Sinker

September  
2006  
Volume 16  
Issue 9

*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).*

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR

## What does acid rain have to do with mercury in fish?

By Mark Sulz----

Those clear, algae free lakes in remote northeastern Minnesota, the ones surrounded by wetlands and dense forests, far from most pollution sources – are the most likely to have heavily mercury contaminated fish, unhealthy to eat.

It's a scientific conundrum. The very qualities that make a lake clear and attractive are environmentally correlated with both acid rain sensitivity and bioaccumulation of mercury.

### What does acid rain have to do with high levels of mercury in northern lake fish?

When sulfur-containing coal is burned in power plants and industry, sulfur oxides are created. In the atmosphere, sulfur oxides are then oxidized to sulfates, which combine with other chemicals in the atmosphere to form acid rain.

Along with acid rain, airborne mercury washes out of the atmosphere and ends up in the sediments of lakes and wetlands. Under certain circumstances, bacteria in the mud called sulfate-reducing bacteria (SRB) begin to convert the sulfate to sulfide. This double edged sword sulfide formulation neutralizes the acid from acid

rain but, at the same time converts mercury into methylmercury, a very toxic form of mercury.

"This is a good news, bad news story," said MPCA scientist Dr. Ed Swain. The good news is that because of strong SRB activity, there are no acidified lakes in Minnesota, unlike some parts of the country. The bad news is that those same SRBs turn mercury into methylmercury, the form that accumulates in fish and is unhealthy for us to eat.

"Nobody really knows the whole picture of all environmental factors that control mercury bioaccumulation in fish," Swain said. "But we know pieces. One piece is that a lake naturally low in sulfate that receives extra sulfate from acid rain probably experiences an increase in mercury methylation, and therefore fish contamination."

The geology in northeastern Minnesota lakes makes them naturally low in phosphorus, sulfate, and the alkalinity that would neutralize acid rain. Low phosphorus results in smaller populations of both algae and fish; and being low in alkalinity makes the lakes far more sensitive to acid rain.

In southern Minnesota lakes, much higher natural concentrations of sulfate may actually inhibit mercury methylation. This is because sulfide increases mercury methylation at low

concentrations, but oddly enough, decreases mercury methylation at high concentrations.

The MPCA, University of Minnesota, Gustavus Adolphus College and the Science Museum of Minnesota recently collaborated on a study of the effect of sulfate on mercury methylation. Study results are expected to be published.



????? and her nice catch of Bass from a small lake west of Garrison, MN. My Grandpa, Rudy Weinkauff, of Comfrey had a cabin south of Garrison on Mille Lacs, near Headquarters Lodge. He enjoyed fishing the smaller lakes in the area and had a different lake for every type of his favorite fish. This was my catch of the day; Grandpa caught some too. Who am I? See page two.

## Club Calendar

Sept. 14th.....Social Night at the Clubhouse 6:30p.m.  
Sept. 16th.....Club Fishing Contest at Petermann's  
Sept 28th .....Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30p.m.  
Oct. 12th.....Social Night at the Clubhouse 6:30 p.m.  
Oct. 26th .....Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 p.m.



## FARM & FLEET

FARM • HARDWARE • AUTO • TOOLS  
LAWN & GARDEN • PAINT • CLOTHING  
1615 North State, New Ulm 359-2988

*Mike's*

### COLLISION & TIRE CENTER

Offering Superior Auto Body Repairs,  
Spray-in bedliners, and Full Service  
Mechanical Shop

809 - 20th North, New Ulm  
507-233-4470

## Hoffman Construction

*Gravel - Excavation -  
Dozer Work*

2231 South Broadway • New Ulm  
507-359-4444



**Steve Suess  
Masonry**



**Block and Concrete Work Since 1977**  
631 South Front 507--354-7234  
New Ulm, MN 56073 Cell 507-276-3822  
Free Estimates

## Marv's Sport Center



Hwy. 14W New Ulm 354-8889

*"Your Fun Is Our Business"*

**KRAL'S  
APPLIANCE  
REPAIR, INC.**

*Commercial and Residential Appliances  
Refrigeration and Cooling*

Jesse Kral Cell 507-276-6797  
622 North Jefferson Fax 507-354-7544  
New Ulm, MN 56073 Res. 507-354-7864

## Imperial Porta-Palace

Portable restrooms for job sites, festivals, parks,  
street dances, cabins or anywhere a restroom is  
needed. We also offer hand wash stations with  
fresh water, soap and paper towels.

*The cleanest restrooms in the business.*

*Jason Kuester*

56554 - 446th Street New Ulm, MN 56073  
Office 800-289-6428 • Cell 507-381-2041  
Licensed, bonded and insured. MPCA LIC. #2535

## From the President. . .

By Scott Sparlin

Another Riverblast has come and gone and what an event it was. Our hats go off to all the volunteers who helped make the event a huge success both in terms of fund raising and attendance. Rocky, Allen and Mike are all to be thanked on behalf of the club for going above and beyond, basically working the food for the entire event. They had support from NUASF members and family as well and the list is extensive, so thank you to all of you.

The first ever Flotilla was a real shot in the dark and we did not know if it would get entrants or spectators when we started. Thanks to the efforts of Joyce Reese and Terry Sveine as co-chairs of the Flotilla we not only had great participation by floaters but the entire banks of the river along Riverside Park were lined with people watching and cheering the extravaganza. Our thanks go out to Terry and Joyce for all that they did to make it a success beyond our best expectations. I can't talk about the Flotilla without a mention of the "Desperate Fish Club Housewives" who took second place in the motorized category. Our Dave and his harem of "pinks" was quite a site to behold and were well deserving of the recognition on the front page of the "New Ulm Journal". All the floats were fantastic and had a real flair for the intent and purpose of the event. Bringing people to the river for fun and enjoyment leaves people with a positive view of the river and allows them to see the river in a different way than they might be used to. Our thanks go out to all who participated and helped the Flotilla in any way and here's to bigger and better next year.

This next meeting we will be discussing several item of interest so don't miss it. Our winter fishing trip, a wrap up of Riverblast, updates on membership, club fishing contest, and fall clean up along with a lot more will be brought up. Bring a first time visitor and get that free refreshment of your choice for you and your guest.

See you at the next meeting.

~~~~~  
Who is the mystery young woman with the bass on the front page? It's Joyce Reese, age 15. I grew up with a lot of good fishermen/women in my family and married into a family of fishermen/women. My parents lived west of Headquarters Lodge, Mille lacs, and an aunt who lived another 2 miles down the road had a lake on her land full of the biggest, best tasting bass you'd ever want to catch. My husband, Keith, a musician and avid fisherman, took his gear whenever he played a dance job near a lake.

## Newsletter by e-mail form

Yes, I would like to receive my newsletter by e-mail.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out this form today and return it to Ross Nelson.

## General Trading Company

- Automotive
- Industrial
- Agricultural

426 North Minnesota Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
507-354-3145



**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).

## Winter fishing trip

Attention all members who want to attend this year's winter fishing trip. We need to have your commitments, to go on the trip, in by the END OF SEPTEMBER. We have a short window of time to get our total number of individuals who want to attend and the down payments in to the resort so we can guaranty our spot.

Here are the specifics for those who need the information. We will be going to High Banks Resort on Lake Winni January 11th-14th 2007. A \$50.00 down payment is required and is nonrefundable. The cost will be approximately \$125.00 if we get 50 or more members to attend. If we're unable to get over 50 people the cost will go up to about \$135.00. There are about 40 fishing holes available in houses so you may wish to bring your own portables. Orv Rannow is the contact man for sign up and any other questions you may have concerning the trip. His cell number is 276-2001. This is always and outstanding time, even thou we usually pick the colds days of the year to go. Ask any members who have gone in the past; it will be worth your time.

## Cottonwod Riverland Update

The sale of the land owned by the county on the Cottonwood River came up at the last county commissioners meeting and was not approved by a vote of 3-2. The DNR, as of yet, have not done their appraisal of the land so having a vote to sell the acreage to private owners seems somewhat premature.

The club has addressed our feelings to keep the land in public ownership at several meetings. The issue will undoubtedly come up again so let's keep our concerns known to the commissioners and any other parties that are on the fence.

## Keep the streets clean

Grass being mowed onto the streets has always been an issue for our organization. It directly relates to the health of the Minnesota River by creating high phosphate levels that support over production of algae and water weeds in the river. Every year this issue is brought up at our meeting, as it was last month, because the problem is so hard to control without penalties. If we're lucky perhaps it will change with some help at the state level, but until that time comes we can only keep reminding every-one of the problems it can cause.

## Meeting notes of interest

- Orv Rannow's wife is going to be having a kidney transplant on Oct. 2nd please keep them in your thoughts.
- Mike Hasse has volunteered to organize/run the Cash Wise food stand for the NUASF and his Bobber Blast fishing contest held during Bavarian Blast. Profits will be split equally between the two. I'm sure Mike would appreciate any help he can get.
- Scott is going to be setting up a meeting with the city to talk about finishing the MiniCon Park wetland project that was started but not fully completed several years ago. More information will become available as discussions progress.

Page 3

# 3M

## New Ulm



## GARY SPRENGER CONSTRUCTION

Light Carpentry • Drywall Taping & Texturing  
Specializing in Drywall Repair

Gary Sprenger, Owner  
New Ulm, MN 56073 • Phone 507-359-9358

## SCVL SOUTH CENTRAL VACUUM LOCATING

**Professional Hydro-Vacuum Services**  
Specializing in locating utilities and cleaning:

Road Culverts • Storm Drains • Lift Stations • Manholes  
• Grain Pits • Conveyor Chutes • Motor Valve Boxes •  
Car & Truck Wash Pits

Jason Kuester  
56554 - 446th Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Res: 507-359-5791  
Office: 507-354-3973  
Cell: 507-381-2041

## WITTE FLOOR COVERING

Residential • Commercial  
Guaranteed Installation

GENE WITTE

600 So. Washington, New Ulm, MN 56073  
507-354-4833

## SSL Auto Service Center

New Ulm's complete  
service station.

626 North Minnesota Street,  
New Ulm, MN 56073

507-354-2619

## Hunting & Fishing Outfitters



Mr. K

Mr. O

Mr. D

**Eric Olson**

Lake Diefenbaker  
Saskatchewan, Canada



Booking 406-395-4515  
Residence 406-265-4437  
Camp 306-773-7877

Eric Olson  
Box 23  
Havre, MT 59501

## RIVER VALLEY STORAGE

416 North Valley • New Ulm

Weekly • Monthly  
Annually

Gary Grosam  
507-354-6033

MANDERFELD'S  
**DESIGN HOME CENTER**  
 Building Materials - Idea Showroom

Lumber • Hardware • Doors • Windows  
 Carpet & Flooring • Kitchen & Bath Cabinetry  
 Professional Installation • Gas Fireplaces  
 Pole Buildings • Paint & Decorating

Hwy 14 West **233-8440** New Ulm

**New Ulm Steel  
 & Recycling**

Walt & Bev Luneburg, Owners  
 218 19th South • New Ulm, MN 56073  
**507-354-2555**

**ELECTRICIANS**

**Zinniel Electric**  
 Electricity is our business...  
 our ONLY business!  
**507-794-7768 Sleepy Eye**

**Audio**  


**BRING MUSIC TO YOUR LIFE**  
 • Custom Home Systems • Antenna Systems  
 • Surround Sound • Wiring and Hookings

Glen Rasmussen  
 Office 354-5961 • Home 354-8748

**Rod's Painting  
 Service**

*Interior • Exterior Finishing*  
 Rod Mueller  
**354-5513**

**Retzlaff  
 Marine & Tackle**  
*Johnson Outboards • Lund Boats  
 Spartan Trailers  
 Yamaha Outboard Motors  
 Newest in Fishing Tackle  
 Downtown New Ulm*



**PARKING LOT  
 MAINTENANCE**  
**FULLY INSURED**

Lot Sweeping • Lot Striping  
 Snow Plowing • Construction Clean-up  
 Traffic Markings • Skid Load Work  
 Traction Control • Catch Basin Cleaning

**Jason Kuester**  
 56554 - 446th Street • New Ulm, MN 56073  
 Res. 507-359-5791  
 Office 507-354-3973  
 Cell 507-381-2041

**Puhlmann  
 Lumber and Design**

 301 First South Street  
 New Ulm, MN 56073  
**507-354-4914**



**Steve Holm**  
 Sales Representative  
**August Schell Brewing Co.**  
 1860 Schell Rd. • PO Box 128  
 New Ulm, MN 56073  
**507-354-5528**

800-770-5020 • Fax: 507-359-9119  
 Cell: 507-276-3605 • Home: 507-359-2368  
[www.schellsbrewery.com](http://www.schellsbrewery.com)  
[www.grainbelt.com](http://www.grainbelt.com)  
 Email: sholm@schellsbrewery.com




**"Your local Beer Guy"**

**PRINTWEAR-  
 graphics**

**SCREEN PRINTING  
 EMBROIDERY  
 AD SPECIALTIES  
 ART & DESIGN**

**507-354-6009**  
**800-584-9457 Toll Free**  
 1610 South Broadway New Ulm, MN 56073

**Hook, Line, and Sinker**



**SPORT FISHERMEN  
 NEW ULM AREA**

The Official Publication of the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen  
 P.O. Box 294 • New Ulm, Minnesota 56073