



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

PHEASANT HUNTING IN MONTANA

Joel Albrecht donates trip

Our membership drive was very good this year bringing in over a dozen new members. We surely could do better; if we each worked on bringing in one individual we would have to add on to the clubhouse again.

But the real story here is this year's drive winner Mayor Joel Albrecht. If you all remember Eric Olson donated a pheasant-hunting trip for 1 or 2 to his resort in Montana to the club member who signed up the most new members. Joel donated his hard earned trip back to the club and is working on selling the trip to any interested party. The trip is valued at well over \$2000.00 and already has an interested hunter willing to give him \$1000.00. All the proceeds will go to NUASF-E.E. Mecklenburg Scholarship Fund.

This is why the NUASF are so well respected in our community, as well as around the state. Year after year our members step up and do things that are unselfish and thoughtful of the future of our environment. This gift ranks up there with one of the best. Thank you again Joel. That was BIG SMOKE.



Harvesting Energy, Helping the River

By Jerry Enzler, Mississippi Monitor

Our farmers produce more than food and fiber - they also produce energy- and renewal of farm and food policies in 2007 creates a chance to invest in renewable energy projects that also meet the needs of the Mississippi River.

Americans overwhelmingly support an increasing role for renewable energy produced at home. In fact, 20 states already require their power companies to provide some energy from solar, wind, bio-fuels and other renewable sources of energy that our farmers, rancher and forest landowners can easily provide. Harvesting energy from the sun, wind and other renewable sources helps reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, creates jobs in rural communities, and boosts the profitability of our farms.

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FEB Fish Dish Night popular gathering

Our March meeting is always one of our most popular gatherings of the year. Members come out of the woodwork because it's FISH DISH NIGHT. Bring your favorite fish dish to pass. Make sure you bring a potential new member its always a good meeting to impress.

Clear Lake Report

Clear Lake oxygen levels were at 8 as of our last meeting (Jan. 25th). With the cold weather that followed levels quickly dropped and the decision was made to turn the aeration system on. A group of members went out the afternoon of January 30th and drilled holes for the thin ice signs and fired up the system.

Thank you to all the members that helped especially to Ron Ludewig and Mike Hasse for keeping track of the oxygen levels. Also, all four-ice houses are now on the lake, they were taken out January 20th thanks to all the members who helped there as well.

Club Calendar

- Feb. 8th.....Social Night at the Clubhouse 6:30pm
- Feb. 11thIce Fishing Contest-Clear Lake
- * Feb. 22ndMeeting at the Clubhouse 7:30pm
- Mar. 8th.....Social Night at the Clubhouse 6:30pm
- Mar. 29thMeeting at the Clubhouse 7:30pm



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From the President . . .

By Scott Sparlin

Well our February meeting is upon us and you all know what that means. Fish dish night and a visit from DNR Fisheries. Lee Sundmark will be on hand to update us on Clear Lake, Lake Hanska and Lake Sleepy Eye. For obvious reasons this is our biggest meeting of the year so you will want to get a spot by coming early. Make sure to bring a friend or guest, it's a great meeting to introduce someone to the club and don't forget that you and your guest each receive a free refreshment of your choice by doing so. We won't just be talking about fish at this next meeting. We will have several organizational things to discuss as well and one of them is our food for after meetings. I introduced the notion of a calendar at the last meeting along with a strategy and we will be having further discussions on that at the February meeting so it can be settled on for the rest of the year and years to come. We will also be reviewing finances and planning for spring activities and beyond.

Our thanks go out to the Berg (Randy, Junior/Robert) family for being gracious enough to let us access the lake through their private property for our contest. Without it we would be facing some significant obstacles at the public access, as many of us know. The ice in that part of the lake this year is real iffy for whatever reason and this ensures a relatively safe event for us, although no ice is ever really safe. So club members give them a thank you when you see them and let them know how much we appreciate it.

The prizes for this years contest and everyone who worked on them are nothing short of phenomenal. Coordinator's Dave Mecklenburg and Chuck Zangl along with a host of others are to be commended for the fine job they have done. I would also like to recognize Jason Kuester for doing all the plowing he has done on the lake and supplying the portable toilets at no cost to the club. Coming together is what this organization has always been about. When there has been a job to do, we have never had to organize a committee. That is unheard of in organizations. People always step up and it is not always the same ones like so many other groups have trouble with and ending up burning people out.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention fellow club member brother Joel Albrecht. What a fantastic gesture to donate his prize back to the club for our scholarship program. We will certainly sweeten the pot for some deserving high school grads this spring all thanks to Joel and his generosity, hats off.

See you all at the next meeting

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Harvesting Energy

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Thanks to the renewable fuel standard included in the 2005 Energy Bill, our region has seen unprecedented private investment in ethanol refineries. As the Monitor reported last month, more than 40 new ethanol corn plants are being constructed across the nation to take advantage of the 7.5 billion gallon mandate included in the Energy Bill, and experts estimate that another 60 plants are under different stages of planning or approved for construction. But, as the Monitor also reported last month, the explosion of ethanol production could pose new environmental challenges as our region's farmers plant more and more corn to meet soaring demand.

Fortunately, renewal of the Farm Bill creates a new chance to invest in renewable energy - and to make energy investments that also help the Mississippi. In particular, renewal of the Farm Bill - and renewable of energy programs authorized by the Farm Bill - provides a chance to prime the pump for fuels made from crop wastes, grasses and other alternative feed stocks that require less fertilizer and causes less soil erosion.

To make sure we're investing in sources of energy that also meet the needs of farmers and consumers, the next Farm Bill could begin to explicitly link our federal renewable energy investments to environmental goals. For example, Congress could direct USDA to subject energy grant and loan proposals to some sort of environmental index to encourage the development of energy alternatives that provide significant environmental gains such as clean water. Congress could also expand working lands stewardship programs to ensure that that feed stocks -- whether corn, cane or cellulose -- are all grown with appropriate environmental safeguards.

As America makes the transition from a hydrocarbon economy to a carbohydrate economy, policymakers should boost energy solutions that provide environmental solutions as well.

The next farm Bill is a good place to start!

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