



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

CONTEST UPDATE

Fishing contest a success

This year's ice fishing contest can go down as our most successful ever! We had an outstanding show of support from club members coming to help with all aspects of the contest. The weather was perfect and people came out of the woodwork to fish and have fun. We didn't really take a head count but there had to be well over 400 people.

With big numbers of people come big \$'s for our club. Big ticket sales were close to \$6000.00, raffle ticket sales were \$2386.00, food stand \$984.00. Even our new contest event "Snow Golf" made over \$110.00 We should really be able to do some worthwhile things in the next year. Thanks to all for all the hard work.



Ditch-buffer bill may get passed this session

State Representative Rick Hansen (DFL from South St. Paul) and state Senator Dan Sparks (DFL from Austin) are working to get a ditch-buffer bill passed this session. Should the bill pass, it would go a long way toward cleaning up our state's waters and provide needed wildlife habitat.

Representative Hansen, an expert in soil and water management has put together long overdue changes in a plan that will bring long-term benefits. Being in leadership positions in the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, Hansen has known about the issue for some time. In 2004 the SWCD passed a resolu-

tion which said the width of the buffer strips included should be clarified. The law required a 1-rod buffer-strip to be placed on each side of a newly dug ditch and also where existing ditches are improved. A rod is 16.5 feet long.

There was confusion over where the rod should start and end in the 1977 law. It was found in a survey taken in 1986-1987 that there wasn't much compliance to the law and today it still isn't.

In February, a ditch-buffer bill of Hansen's passed a House committee that is supported by farmers and environmentalists. It took a lot of work by

many people to do a required study. The group, in 2005, got an appropriation in the Board of Water and Soil Resources budget for \$109,000, to look at the implementation of buffers strips and to do a literature review of their effectiveness. The study found ditch buffers protect water quality, reduce erosion and provide wildlife habitat. It is important to wildlife as it provides a corridor in which wildlife can move. The buffers reduce wind erosion and runoff which in turn protects water.

Although the bill did not pass last session, this session interest in ditch buffers has grown. A task force from the Board of Water and Soil Resources followed up on the recommendations and heard compelling testimony about the need to update drainage records, not only for the buffer requirement but for assessment and property taxes. Therefore the gov-

Continued on page 2

Club Calendar

- March 29thMeeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 p.m.
- April 14thCommunity Cleanup 9:00 p.m.
- April 12thSocial Night at the Clubhouse 6:30 p.m.
- April 26thMeeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 p.m.

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From the President. . .

By Scott Sparlin

Well the new regulations for fishing are available and they are 78 pages long. Wow. I wonder if the CO's can keep up. I think it's time to simplify, it has to be possible. Transporting of fish is pretty complicated as stated in the book, read it yourself and see if you get it. I know I had a hard time. I think the measuring of fish vs. bag limits has to be revisited. That alone would cut that book of regulations in half. I'm not saying slots don't work, I am saying so does bag limits. There is also a lot of catch and release mortality that would not happen if bag limits were reduced. It would also promote fishing alternative species when a bag limit was full. Something to think about, we'll hash it over at the next meeting and get your opinions. I don't think I'm the lone ranger on this either, as I have asked many anglers the same questions and received a positive response to limits vs. slots.

This next meeting we will be discussing our spring clean up projects. Community Clean Up for Water Quality, Club Grounds and Riverbank clean up will all be covered. We have set a date of Saturday the 14th of April and a meeting place of Riverside Park at 8:30 a.m. to get started. So if you can volunteer for either the morning session or the afternoon session or even both, I would encourage each of you to do so. We will have the grill going and there will be food and refreshments for all participants.

The membership drive for 2007 is off and running. Let's really gear up this year and increase our ranks considerably. Many of us have talked about getting the 25-35 year old crew, let's work on that and encourage them to take an active role as some of our club members in that age group already have. So bring a friend and his friend to our next meeting and receive a free refreshment of your choice for all of you. See you at the next meeting.

Buffer strip continued from page 1

error budgeted \$500,000 for record modernization grants for local government. The bill which passed the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, House File 577, Senate companion was authored by Senator Dan Sparks.

The landowners who benefit when there is a ditch cleanout or a new ditch established will pay for the buffers. Because the buffers will reduce the need for cleanout as well as other benefits, everyone in the watershed will benefit.

Although some legislators oppose the bills, there is really widespread support. Agricultural, environmental and many other groups are in support.

Page 2

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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

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KEEP IT CLEAN

At our February meeting several members brought to the clubs attention that on several occasions dead fish have been found lying on the ice outside of our fish houses on Clear Lake. Though at first glance this may seem to be nothing, except messy, it is against DNR Regulations. I looked it up in the new '07 Fishing Regulations handed out at our last meeting. "A person cannot wantonly waste a fish that is caught by leaving it or any usable portion on the ice." So if you use the fish houses next year make sure you take any dead fish with you and dispose of them properly.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

As I'm writing this article there's over 20" of snow on the ground and the temperatures are in the teens. But it is spring and with spring comes our annual Community Clean Up. The date is set for April 14th (switched from April 7th) meet at Riverside Park boat landing @ 9:00A.M with pickups and trailers. Also bring rakes, shovels, brooms and dress according to the weather. Getting the leaves out of the gutters and storm drains before they have a chance to get into the river is important, so make sure you set the date aside and come join us. We will also have a lunch at the clubhouse after the cleanup and we'll do some spring-cleaning at the clubhouse and grounds as well.

NOTES FROM LAST MEETING

- The landing at Berg's was in tuff shape after the contest so Jim Hulke and Ken Sutherland are going to contact the Berg's and talk to them about fixing it for them.
- Ice fishing houses were taken off Clear Lake on February 21st & 22nd Thanks to the members that took care of that for us.
- The Stoney Award election will be done at the March meeting so get your nominations in to Ross before or at the meeting. If you remember the Stoney goes to the club member who over the last year has worked the hardest for the club and its ideals

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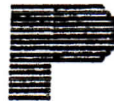
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