



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

CATFISH RELEASE

DNR “New Ulm Capital for a Day”

Sometime late in the afternoon on Thursday, May 15, a huge flathead catfish will be lowered into the Minnesota River at New Ulm’s Riverside Park. It will be no ordinary catfish.

As part of the ‘New Ulm Capital for a Day’ celebration on May 15, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is teaming with local elementary schools and the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen (NUASF) club in a special event featuring a bewhiskered denizen of the Minnesota River as the headliner.

According to Tom Conroy, DNR Southern Region Information Officer at New Ulm, “The catfish to be released will be captured from the Minnesota River, affixed with a unique tag, and transported to Riverside Park on the day of the event. That tag will be of particular significance.”

The catfish will be given a name and pronounced the ‘Official Catfish of the Minnesota River’ in a special Governor Proclamation, Conroy said. The name will be determined as part of an essay contest for New Ulm elementary students in grades 4-6. Students taking part in the contest will be asked to submit a suggested name for the fish and then describe what a day in the life of this fish might be like in the Minnesota River.

The top ten essays will be selected with one grand

prize-winner. All winners will be awarded prizes. The grand prize-winner will also be invited to take part in the actual release of the fish along with DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten and possibly another invited dignitary, Conroy said.

As for the tag affixed to the fish, NUASF President Scott Sparlin explained the significance. “If someone happens to catch this particular fish, it’s going to be a big, big story,” Sparlin stated. “That’s because there is going to be a very substantial prize waiting for that person.”

According to Sparlin, the catfish release during New Ulm’s ‘Capital for a Day’ celebration provides a “terrific opportunity to draw regional attention to New Ulm and the state’s namesake river during our Minnesota’s sesquicentennial year. It’s one more way for the community to showcase all we have to offer here.”

Mark Matuska, DNR Southern Region Director at NewUlm, said “we see this event as a great way to highlight the importance of the Minnesota River and New Ulm’s historic connection to it, and provide some fun and excitement at the same time.”

More details of the event will be published in upcoming editions of the New Ulm Journal as they become available.

Club Calendar

- April 24thMeeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 p.m.
- May 8thSocial Night at the Clubhouse 6:30 p.m.
- May 15thCapital for a Day at Riverside Park
- May 29thMeeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 p.m.



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From the President

By Scott Sparlin

It was a real treat having Joe Fellegly at our last meeting. His stories and connections to New Ulm really made it fascinating and fun. I especially liked the daredevil in the guide's ear story; you can't make stuff like that up. The largest cooler of beer ever brought on the launch was a New Ulm person, go figure, John Mowan wow! We thank Joe for his trip down and I see we have already received a plug in the Outdoor News for our fish release in May. I will bet that is not the last we have heard of Joe, so may the wind always be light enough to keep the Mille Lacs chop just right for him on the big lake and every fish caught be under or over the slot.

The big catfish to be released and the goings on at Riverside Park are getting finalized for the 150 year celebration. We have put a bounty on the big catfish of \$1000 with the help of our friends at KNUJ Radio.

Anyone who catches the big guy will need to do so before October 1st 2008 to claim the bounty. A tag will be put on the fish that needs to be produced in order to get the money. It should be a real hoot. The kids also will have a great deal going to win a new rod and reel from NUASF as well. See additional story in this edition of Hook Line and Sinker.

Hopefully we will have all the snow over with for our next meeting. Spring fishing for sunnies is right round the corner and we are still getting snow we need to move on. I suspect it will go right from winter this year to summer and we will be fighting mosquitoes the size of helicopters in no time. Geeze it's only 4 weeks 'til opener when I'm writing this and I am still wearing winter clothes. I think I will go fishing on the river for carp, sheephead and cats that always gets me fired up for the whole year.

We have much to discuss at the next meeting, so bring a friend and introduce them to the club, I'm sure they will enjoy themselves and tell others. See you at the next meeting.

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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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Capital For a Day

The city of New Ulm has been selected to be an honorary "Capital for a Day". The NUASF will be teaming with the Minnesota DNR, on May 15th at Riverside Park, to help promote the Minnesota River.

At our last meeting we allocated some cash to help with the two major events of the day. The DNR will be releasing a tagged 40# flat-head catfish at Riverside Park and the individual that catches it before October 1st will receive a big cash prize. The schools will also be involved with the event, kids grades 4-6 will be naming the catfish and writing essays describing what its like to be a catfish in the river. The top 10 finalists will get to be at the fish release and will receive a rod and reel donated by us and other local businesses. The DNR will also be conducting a lot of fishing related activities for the kids.

It should be a fun day by the river. Come and help if you can or just observe the goings on, our club can be proud of our involvement.

Meeting Notes

- Thanks as always go out to Robert "Jr" Berg and Randy Berg for allowing us to use their landing on Clear Lake for our fishing contest and thru out the ice fishing season.
- Our club donated \$500 to the E.E. Mecklenburg Scholarship Fund.
- An ad will be but in the Journal thanking all the business that donated cash or prizes for our Ice Fishing Contest.
- There were about 25 people involved with the Adaptive Recreational Services company that attended our fishing night at the clubhouse. Club members gave them tips about fishing and some club hats.
- By the time the newsletter gets out we will have had another successful community/river/grounds clean up. Thanks to every one that helped.

• Jim Hulke and Mark Dauer will provide this months meal.

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Renewed Interest In Turning Algae Into Fuel Generated

ScienceDaily (Jan. 19, 2008) — The same brown algae that cover rocks and cause anglers to slip while fly fishing contain oil that can be turned into diesel fuel, says a Montana State University microbiologist.

Drivers can't pump algal fuel into their gas tanks yet, but Keith Cooksey said the idea holds promise. He felt that way 20 years ago. He feels that way today.

"We would be there now if people then hadn't been so short-sighted," Cooksey said. Cooksey is one of many U.S. scientists who studied the feasibility of turning algal oil into biodiesel in the 1980s. The U.S. Department of Energy, through its Aquatics Species program, funded their research. Cooksey's lab made a number of discoveries. Scientific journals published his findings.

Funding dried up, however, and the scientists went on to other things.

"Rumor had it that big oil got in the way," Cooksey said. "They didn't want competition so the project was dropped."

Cooksey "sort of" retired as a research professor in 2003. He now directs the Department of Defense's EPSCoR program for Montana. A few months ago, however, Cooksey started getting phone calls and e-mails from researchers and others who read about his algal work on the Internet or had seen it referenced in scientific journals. Companies tried to hire him as a consultant. He was invited to attend conferences. He ran into several scientists who had been his friendly competitors in the old days. They all said, "If only."

"It's a very strange feeling," said Cooksey, now 72. "You don't usually have people bending your ear on what you did 20 years ago. Science doesn't work that way, but in this case, it did." The revived interest in microalgae stems from the conflict in the Middle East and the resulting focus on alternative fuels, Cooksey said.

"Our lab was one of three or four in the world doing research that nobody was really interested in," Cooksey said. "Now, suddenly lots of people are interested in it."

Still interested in pursuing algal fuel, Cooksey said his lab in the 1980s figured out how to increase oil production from algae. It developed a system that screened algae for their oil content and greatly reduced the sample size needed for their research. It developed a stain for algae, called Nile Red. When treated with the stain, the algae became fluorescent under certain conditions, making it easier to measure their oil content.

Algae grows naturally along rivers, the seashore, and in the mangrove swamps of southern Florida, Cooksey said. They also grow in wastewater treatment ponds and can be grown commercially in manmade ponds. One design that was tested in the 1980s is a shallow pond that looks like a raceway. Another is a system of deeper ponds. Algae can be grown especially well in desert states that have plenty of sunshine and access to water unusable for traditional agriculture or drinking. Because of its salt content, salt water is more economical than fresh water for growing algae, so southwestern states with saline aquifers might find it easy to grow them.

"In principle, lipids from microalgae are suitable for refining into conventional liquid fuels,"

Continued on back of this page

said a 1983 annual report from the Solar Energy Research Institute that provided Cooksey's funding and some algal cultures. "Indeed, in the past, biological oils have been refined to fuels during shortages in petroleum supply."

Joseph LaStella, president of Green Star Products, Inc. in San Diego, Calif., raved about the potential of algae in a recent phone call. His company built a demonstration pond in Hamilton, Mont., last spring.

Soybeans produce about 50 gallons of oil per acre per year, and canola produces about 130, he said. Algae, however, produces about 4,000 gallons per acre a year, and he predicted it will go far beyond that. He said algae requires only sunshine and non-drinkable water to grow. The demonstration pond showed that algae will grow even when temperatures fall below zero.

"This is the only answer to our fuel crisis," LaStella said.

David Tooke, director of operations at Sustainable Systems in Missoula, said, "With new interest in biofuels, it's another opportunity to supply those fuels.

"As far as surface area needed, it's more reasonable to assume we could attain those levels of production from algae versus agricultural crops," he continued. Twenty years ago, algae looked promising, too, but interest died down as oil prices dropped, Tooke said. Can algal biofuel make it this time around? "Most certainly," he predicted. "It's beginning to make sense to pursue this again."

Adapted from materials provided by [Montana State University](#).

Jim Hulke recipient of this year's Stoney Award



Left to right: NUASF President Scott Sparlin, Jim Hulke holding his Stoney Award, and NUASF Treasurer Tony Miller.

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