



Hook, Line, and Sinker

December
2008
Volume 19
Issue 12

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

COMMENTS FOR RIVER TALK

Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment Passes

By Scott Sparlin

The Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment recently passed by the voters of Minnesota affirms what many of us already suspected and have experienced first hand in our work with natural resources here in the Minnesota River Basin. The vote margin in favor of the amendment clearly displays that residents are genuinely concerned about the future of our natural resources and in particular our surface water. Here in the Minnesota River Watershed which covers two fifths of Minnesota's land mass, we have witnessed these genuine concerns over the past two decades. After engaging residents from all walks of life in this part of the State, it became apparent to us most people really did care. After a brief period of denial and dismay with the results from extensive scientific testing of our surface water and the subsequent realization of the significantly degraded condition which existed, people began to assert that deep down they wanted to fix the problem. Having said that, it comes as no surprise to me that the people of Minnesota possess and have demonstrated with this vote a deep sense of pride in ones place. After an excruciatingly long period of prodding the legislature to allow residents a vote on the amendment, the people had finally been given their rightful voice. It is my humble observation that this sends a clear message to our elected officials at all levels of Government as to where a clear majority of Minnesotan's stand in this regard. I take great pride in a State that has by its own initiative allowed the democratic process a chance to play out. Even greater so, I am proud that I live in a State that values its natural and cultural heritage enough to realize that it needs secure funding to face the real and significant challenges that loom on the horizon. Let us

now strive together to make Minnesota the land of 10,000 clean lakes, clean rivers, enhanced parks and trails and a culture that we can continue to celebrate and pass on to future generations.

Frederickson to speak at meeting

Senator Dennis Frederickson will be a guest speaking at our next meeting. The Senator was recently presented the Long Portage Award for his leadership in passing the Clean Water Legacy legislation that provides the structure for ongoing funding to test and clean up Minnesota's impaired waters.

Club Calendar

December 18thMeeting at the Clubhouse

December 25thMerry Christmas!

January 1stHappy New Year!

(There is talk of a social gathering at the Clubhouse sometime over the first weekend of 2009!)



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From the President

By Jason Kuester

Hello! As you all know this is the last meeting of the year, December 18th. This is your last chance to bring a new member into the club for a chance to win the Canadian trip. This wonderful trip is donated by Eric Olson. So there is no confusion, we ask you to please bring your new member(s) to the meeting. If they are unable to attend the meeting please bring a check from the new member(s) for the membership.

As you all know our ice fishing tournament is fast approaching. It is my goal to get all the members to participate in this exciting event. It takes all of our volunteers to pull off this event. There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting for set up/tear down, food prep, and ticket sales. Once again this is our biggest moneymaker, I would really appreciate it if everyone could contribute to this event by volunteering and/or selling books of tickets. Tickets and posters are available at the next meeting or by contacting Ross Nelson 507-766-0765 or myself at 507-381-2041 or e-mail at jr@newulmtel.net and we will get you as many as you would like.

This meeting is the last chance to sign up for the club's fishing trip to High Banks Resort. There are five openings left!! If you are interested in going in on this trip please contact Orv Rannow at 507-276-2001 or just come to the next meeting.

Ice fishing season is here and many lakes are froze over and covered in snow. Due to these conditions it is very hard to tell if you are walking on 2 inches of ice or 8 inches of ice. Please be careful if and when you are on the ice. Remember the golden rules of ice thickness- 4 inches walking only, 6 inches snowmobiles and four-wheelers, 12 inches or more for small cars and pickups, 16 inches for full size vehicles.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!!

PHISH-LINE NEWS RESOURCES

Here are some ideas to help stave off "cabin fever" and Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) as we enter the deep blue of another winter. When the actual world is getting you down, there is always the virtual world of the internet. "Infoglut," of course, can be depressing and confusing at times. "Actually," books and magazines can sometimes help. And 'tis the season for giving . . . and for ice fishing . . .

If you don't already subscribe to the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, please consider donating and subscribing. Please visit www.mndnr.gov/magazine, or call the DNR at 1-888-646-6367, and find out how to "give gifts of the outdoors."

And here is a wonderful book, published in October by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, mnhs.org, or 1-800-657-3773: A Hard-Water World: Ice Fishing and Why We Do It. "Beautiful photos and engaging essays transport readers into the odd-ball world of ice fishing-warm-house hovels and mansions, ephemeral ice cities, dark-house spearfishing, and bizarrely humorous northern festivals."

CRANK BAIT

Flying carp found in Lake Pepin. Duck!

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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 - Jason Kuester (381-2041); Vice-President - Gary Sprenger (359-9358); Secretary - Ross Nelson (507-766-0765) Treasurer - Tony Miller (354-2457); Board Members: Jim Huelke (354-3654), Dave Mecklenburg (794-7859), Ken Sutherland (354-4140).
Hook, Line & Sinker Editor - Franz Kitzberger (359-8944)

(MEETING NOTES from November 20th

- *39 members were present. Membership stands at 175, with 23 memberships due.
- *Area Lakes and Rivers Report: Clear Lake has ice on; Leech Lake has a good layer of ice.
- *High Island Lake Report from Scott Sparlin. Draw-down is progressing at 2" per day and lake-bed should be dry by Spring. When lake refills, 4,000,000 walleye fry will be stocked and we should be trying to catch 'em in 2 to 3 years.
- *Clubhouse and Grounds Update. Jim Hulke will winterize the lawn mowers.
- *Tony Miller received information regarding the Belle Plaine River Cleanup Reunion to be held sometime in Summer '09. Renting a bus to the reunion was discussed.
- *Scholarship Display Board is progressing. Please contact Dave Mecklenburg if you have any pertinent information regarding past winners and their successes, whereabouts, etc.
- *Copy of NUASF By-Laws should be given to each Board Member to check how elections are to be conducted, especially when Officer terms are up. Also, an internal audit should be done by the Board, possibly before the December meeting. In the discussion, it was strongly suggested that the Tony Miller Accounting System remain intact.
- *Jason Kuester would like to be contacted two weeks before a general meeting for any additions to the agenda.
- *22nd Annual Ice Fishing Contest: Pat Roiger volunteered to take on the duties of Prize Coordinator for the Northside. Thanks, Pat! Raffle tickets and contest posters are ready; Six, possibly seven, major sponsors have committed to donations of \$250 or more and will be duly recognized at the contest; Runnings gave us a real deal of \$230 for an ice auger that listed at \$459; Al Zwach and Jerry Carlson are working with the Frabil people on the Portable Fish House and the possibility may arise that the Club will have to purchase a house. "If we have to purchase a fish house, we'll just have to do it." Jerry is also going to contact Eric Olsen regarding the Canadian Fishing Trip-prize to make sure everything is copacetic. Thanks, Al and Jerry! Orv Rannow kindly stepped up to take on the food-booth duties, after it was learned that Jerry Carlson would be stepping down. Thanks, Orv! And thanks to Jerry for sharing his excellent culinary skills over the years!
The tents should be inspected and examined to make sure all the parts are there and in working order. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONTEST IS OUR BIGGEST MONEY-MAKER OF THE YEAR AND THAT EVERY MEMBER SHOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO HELP-OUT IN ANY WAY THEY CAN! AND, HEY, IT'S ALSO SOME GOOD, CLEAN FUN! SEE YOU ON THE LAKE ON FEB. 8TH!
- *Winter Fishing Trip: 33 people have signed up for the excursion, set for January 8, 9, 10, and 11.
- *Don Borstad is working with Mike Studtmann, learning the intricacies of our Web Site management. newulmsportfish.org
- *Other Business: If anyone has any old bar stools, the club could use them; if anyone wants to order a NUASF hero/letter jacket, see Ross Nelson, who'll check out the details; discussion was held with the idea that a prize should be given to the member who sells the most raffle tickets—a club coat? Ken Sutherland will take care of any problems with the furnace/thermostat in the clubhouse.
- *DECEMBER MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED UP TO THE 18TH. It's POT LUCK!



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