



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

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

Several officers positions to be filled

At the July meeting we will be taking nominations for several positions. The following is a list of everyone that are up. President-Scott Sparlin, Vice-President-Jerry Carlson, Secretary-Ross Nelson, Treasurer-Tony Miller, and Board of Director-Jim Hulke. Mr. Sparlin

had stated at the time of his last election that it would be his last term and would not be running again. Good Luck in retirement Mr. Sparlin.

This is the time for all good members to come to the aid of their club. Any one interested in

any of the positions please throw your hat into the ring and as for the rest of us take some time before the meeting to think of members you feel would fill the bill for each very important position.

Kids Fishing Contest held on July 16th



Photo by Dave Stolt

The NUASF Kids Fishing Contest was held on July 16th at Riverside Park. 124 kids registered and there were 85 fish registered.

The contest was sponsored by Hy-vee, Runnings, Twin River, Retzlaff's, Dairy Queen, Orville Rannow Floor Care, Northland Fishing Tackle and Apitz Printing.
CONTEST WINNERS:

- Jacob Dauer - 11 lb. 13 oz. Carp
- Oliver Fruhwirth - 9 lb. 5 oz. Buffalo
- Jeremy Evers - 9 lb. 3 oz. Carp
- Skyla Smith - 5 lb. 9 oz. Carp
- Ethan Olson - 4 lb. 15 oz. Flathead
- Jeff Osborne - 3 lb. 3 oz. Flathead
- Willie Osborne - 2 lb. 6 oz. Walleye

Pictured on the left is Tina Miller receiving a \$1,000 check from Tony Miller (no relation) NUASF Treasurer. Miller received the bounty on tagged catfish, "Big D", who was released at Riverside Park on New Ulm's Capitol For A Day celebration Miller caught and released "Big D" near Franklin. \$750 was donated by NUASF and \$370 was donated by KNUJ for the bounty.

Club Calendar

- July 31stMeeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 p.m.
- August 14thSocial Night at the Clubhouse 6:30 p.m.
- August 28thMeeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 p.m.
- August 29-30thRiverblast at Riverside Park



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From the President

By Scott Sparlin

I have only a few more columns to spout off to you guys so I am going to make the most of the opportunity.

If there is one thing I have very strong feelings on with regards to the future of angling it is the importance of strong partnerships between groups like ours and those who are charged with managing the resource at all levels. Many times organizations focus in on one government entity to work on issues expecting to get results where that particular entity does not specialize or even have responsibility. We as an organization have been aware for long time of the complexity in the challenges facing our fish populations and have come to realize that we can only accomplish our goals by focusing in on water quality and habitat protection. When you start to consider what that translates into on all fronts it is a somewhat daunting task. That is why we need to be pulling in the same direction when it comes to the natural environment.

I can't emphasize the word sustainable enough; it is truly where we need to be. The future of angling will depend on our will to improve water quality and fish habitat along with smart choices that consider people in the equation. We can and do have the power to make cultural choices that will complement sound science and provide a quality experience for those generations to come. The choices should include a simplification of rules and regulations that are easily understandable and enforceable. Let's not scare off potential new advocates, fishing enthusiasts, or even those casual anglers with a bloated regulation book. The fact is we need all levels of anglers to succeed. One user group or type of angler should not dominate the entire picture and that includes those who deliver the science. We have seen a rapid decline in angling participation. Some argue that is a good thing for those of us who choose to continue to fish, I think it is a sign of a systemic rut. We have made our case as a club pretty clear based on what we hear from the greater angling public. Culture needs to have a significant place at the table and I'm not convinced they are getting one. If we do include and truly listen to that part of the equation, we will then have a chance at sustainability.

See you at the next meeting and oh, by the way we will be changing next month's meeting date to Thursday August 21st because of Riverblast.

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Hook, Line, and Sinker

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The NUASF Board

President - Scott Sparlin (359-2346); Vice-President - Jerry Carlson (354-8869); 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).

Scholarship Display Board to be constructed

The E.E. Mecklenburg Scholarship ranks as one of the best endeavors our organization does each year. Every year we seem to award more scholarships than we did the year before. We have talked over the last several meetings about placing a display board, at the clubhouse, with all the past winners of the award. Dave Mecklenburg has stepped up to chair the project and will dig thru the archives for names and pictures. Jim Liebl also said he'd help with it's construction.

Please don't forget that you can add an additional \$5.00 to your dues each year and it will go directly to the scholarship fund, if all 170 members would do so we would be able to award an additional scholarship.


Meeting Notes

- Membership stands at 170
- Thanks to Wayne Forbrook for cutting the lawn at the clubhouse.
- Mark Dauer and Jim Hulke are coordinating the Kids Fishing Contest and have received some great donations.
- The Camp Courage fishing day at Studtmann's Pond was a lot of fun with 15 kids all catching big bass. Thanks to all the members who were there to help and especially to the Studtmann's for allowing us to use their great site.
- We'll be purchasing a new tarp for the old club boat at Mankato Tent & Awning, thanks to Wyman Forbrook for checking it out. Don Luther will also be fixing a problem we're have with the motor on the new boat.
- Orv Rannow will do the floors at the clubhouse on July 9th with the help of several volunteers.
- The date for our annual club fishing contest at Dick Peterman's has been set for September 20th.
- Food for the next meeting. We'll be using up the fish we have in the freezer at the clubhouse but if anyone has any extra to bring we probably will need it.

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Will biofuels worsen global warming? Not if done wisely.

by Loni Kemp

Recent media coverage of two studies appearing in *Science* has opened a sensitive question. If the world needs all the food it now produces, then won't the addition of biofuel crops force more land into agriculture? If the U.S. and other countries reduce their fuel exports as more crops are shifted into ethanol, won't farmers in other countries respond by clearing rainforests and grasslands to replace those foods products?

The studies in question used very complicated and well-respected economic models to assert that the answer is yes—biofuels will either lead to mass starvation or, more likely, the addition of vast acreages of agriculture land at the expense of natural ecosystems. The bottom line for climate change would be greater climate pollution from land clearing than would be saved by the use of renewable biofuels.

However, these studies used assumptions to build their models. I find it curious that the most important assumptions used in these studies were apparently simply asserted, and neither studied nor tested.

The first assumption is that all land currently farmed is indeed needed for food by virtue of the very fact that it is farmed. Yet this is patently false. Some land is used for growing fiber such as cotton and flax, sod, and landscaping plants. Much cropland is used for growing livestock feed, which could instead be provided on pasture or rangeland. Much land is planted every year despite the likelihood of extremely low yields due to



weather or unsuitable soils. Government subsidies provide irresistible financial incentives to grow certain crops. Clearly, much land in agriculture is not needed for food production and could be suited for biomass.

Does the world demand that production? The U.S. has struggled with surplus production for the past seventy years, often suffering resultant low prices and undercutting world production with our low-price exports. In fact, finding sufficient world markets has been major preoccupation and unfulfilled promise of mainstream agriculture since the 1950s. Sadly, hunger and real markets to buy food are two different things.

Another assumption of the studies was based on the first—that all agriculture acres diverted to biofuels will be in fact replaced by clearing new acres for agriculture. Why? Because we already assume that the world needs every acre now

used for food. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy that is not verified.

If you center the vision of biofuels on corn and soybeans, then concerns about food adequacy are legitimate. Converting native ecosystems for corn ethanol surely does not make sense, as these studies emphasize. If one invisions biofuels as perennial biomass crops such as grasses which are targeted to less productive, non-prime farmlands, then the concerns may evaporate. Converting marginal cropland to perennial bioenergy crops makes all the sense in the world because it does not contribute to climate change. It in fact slows climate change with much higher net energy yields per acre and significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions than corn ethanol.

Commentary from THE CONSERVATION PLANNER March 2008

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