



Hook, Line, and Sinker

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SPARLIN STEPS DOWN

Thank you, Scott!!!

Usually one exclamation point is enough, but when mere mortal words will not suffice, emphatic punctuation serves well. Thank you, Scott E. Sparlin, for serving NUASF so well for so long. Here's your golden hook. Wear it proudly on the bill of your cap. May you fish long and prosper.

Studtmann steps down as website coordinator

Mike Studtmann is stepping down as website coordinator for NUASF. We thank him for his years of volunteer labor on this important tool for our organization. It was Mike's idea in the first place to have a web site which is now a vital part of our operations and he has our gratitude for his years of service in that capacity. In Mike's place we will now need a new coordinator of the web site. If there is any member out there who is capable and willing to do it, would they please let the new president and Ross Nelson know as soon as possible. We will need this person to do updates and action alerts to the membership on a timely basis. It is very costly to have this professionally done and I hope we can avoid that expenditure if at all possible. I would suspect if you are someone who can do this that a commitment of a year at a time from anyone would be great.

**ELECTION NIGHT
OCTOBER 30**

Election of officers will be held during the meeting at the Club House. Everyone is encouraged to attend this important meeting.

Conservation Drainage Benefits Agriculture and Environment

With the summer dry season upon us, many farmers pray for enough rain to ensure a good harvest in the fall. Technology — improved crop genetics, tillage practices and fertilizers — has helped improve crop yields tremendously. But adequate rainfall still depends on the weather, and so far, technology can't control that. When rain does fall, recent developments in water management can help control what happens to it on farm fields. Farmers are becoming more aware of "conservation drainage," which can benefit both agriculture and the environment. During dry summer months, it can help retain a reservoir of groundwater for thirsty crops. Tony Thompson

raises corn and soybeans on 2,000 acres in the northeast corner of Jackson County. The heavy clay soil is poorly drained, typical of about half of the farmland in Minnesota. Like many farms over the past century, vast networks of ditches and subsurface drain tile have transformed the land from prairie and water-filled potholes to highly-productive cropland. The downside is that uncontrolled drainage can contribute to water pollution from sediment and fertilizers in stormwater runoff. "Adding tile in some cases was a distinctly un-neighborly thing to do," Tony says. "Now I try to do all I can to improve my own land while imposing the least harm downstream. For

example, I try to hold water on my land for three days. It's a complicated process." Conservation drainage is the use of drainage practices designed to provide the benefits of drainage while minimizing negative impacts on the environment, according to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). MDA Assistant Commissioner Robin Kinney says it's important for landowners to have some solutions to help them meet drainage challenges: "We need to continue to provide producers and landowners with real-life, working demonstrations that incorporate improved designs and management practices for their land." Expanding the practices can

Specific projects of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and local groups are or will be under way to reduce pollution in hundreds of water bodies in Minnesota. "Subsurface drainage puts a lot of sediment-free water into ditches and streams and this can influence channel bed and bank erosion," says Dr. Joe Magner, MPCA hydrology expert and University of
continued on page 2

Club Calendar

October 25th.....Fall Clean-up at Clubhuse 10:00 a.m.
 October 30th.....Election Night Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 p.m.
 November 4th.....Election Day; VOTE YES



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From the President

By Scott Sparlin

Well this is the last time I will be writing to you as President of the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen. It hardly seems possible that it has been 22 years on the bridge of this good ship. But the time has come for others to step up and lead with enthusiasm and renewed energy. I think **collectively** over the past 22 years we have accomplished quite a bit to promote our mission. That being to improve, advance and advocate for the honorable sport of fishing and fish habitat in and around the New Ulm area. I also believe that **together** we have set an example for other organizations to replicate and have even made an impact at the State wide level. Keep in mind no one person accomplishes what working together can and there is no better example of that than NUASF. That is why I am so proud to say I am a member and will remain eager to explain to people what we do as an organization.

This month's election will give you a new President and Vice President for sure and I hope you can come to the meeting to cast your vote.

I am looking forward to coming to meetings and participating in the discussion of our various activities and deciding how we will act on our mission in the future. I may be able to even offer an opinion or two on things that I have had to abstain from in the past. That might be worth the price of admission right there.

We do need to look forward and plan for the future. We need to make sure our membership is maintained and treated first class by offering good modern and effective communications while continuing to offer the perks that we have set up for our organization.

So I sign off as President with one last thing to remember. It is up to all of us to make our organization a great one. Each individual member should be compelled to offer what only they can. Each of us possesses a special expertise and talents, so know your strength's and give of them freely when and if you are able. They are special gifts that have been given to you to be shared for the betterment of all those worthy recipients around you.

Conservation Drainage from page 1

Minnesota (U of M) adjunct professor. "The volume and velocity of water movement can cut into channels and cause them to erode and become unstable, which can lead to water-quality problems," Magner says. "Hydrology management is only one factor; we also need to get pollutant treatment out there in some fashion or another." "Current water-quality impairments in the Minnesota River and many of its tributaries, such as turbidity, excess nutrients, and fecal coliform bacteria, point to an immediate and continuing need for practices and sustainable management systems that improve water quality while optimizing agricultural production and farm profitability," says Jeff Strook, U of M soil scientist and drainage researcher. "Drainage water management like the system at Tony's is not a silver bullet that alone will improve water quality. We must implement integrated management practices across the landscape and think of them as silver BBs." Recently, Thompson received a grant from the Department of Agriculture to install equipment that controls the flow of water coming from a network of subsurface drain tile in a 160-acre field. After the crop is planted, gates in the control structures can be raised to hold back water in the tile system. This makes more water available to the crops instead of draining off and carrying t of a new approach to water management. I'm willing to make the investment in technology, but financial incentives are needed." Over the years, Thompson has used numerous conservation practices on his farm, including ridge-tilling, installing grass filter strips, and closing open tile intakes. The goal is to keep farmland productive while reducing soil erosion and runoff of fertilizer and chemicals. Scientists believe that fertilizers - nitrogen and phosphorus - in runoff from Upper Midwest farm fields contributes to a large area in the Gulf of Mexico where aquatic life suffers from low dissolved oxygen. The nutrients fuel algal growth, and bacteria use oxygen in consuming algae. A 20 percent reduction in drainage from fields could bring a corresponding reduction in nitrogen.

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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

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).
Hook, Line & Sinker Editor - Franz Kitzberger (359-8944)

Conservation Drainage continued from page 2

says Warren Formo, director of the recently organized Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition. "The agriculture community is open to the conservation drainage idea. We're seeing a lot of older systems being replaced with pattern tile having fewer open inlets. We need to study drainage and do it better." Jamie Duininck, of Prinsco, a drain tile manufacturer headquartered in Willmar, is vice president of the Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition. "Drainage is misunderstood," Duininck says. "A 40-acre field may have 40,000 feet of tile in a close pattern, which can actually be like a sponge." The coalition received a federal grant for research projects in five states on drainage water management. About a dozen projects are in Minnesota, including the controlled outlet structure at the Thompson farm. "When I saw the technology for controlled drainage really coming along, I talked with Gary Sands," Thompson said. After attending a tiling workshop last year, he decided to go ahead with the project. Sands, a U of M Extension Service engineer and one of the leading researchers on drainage, reports that in general, artificial drainage may increase the amount of water leaving a field by 10 to 15 percent. Continued research shows promise that conservation drainage techniques such as controlled outlets may accommodate crop production needs while reducing water pollution downstream. MPCA and university researchers also are studying better designs for drainage ditches.

MEETING NOTES from September 25th

*Membership Update: 175 Members

*Area Lakes & Rivers Report: Fishing at Sleepy Eye was great for small sunfish; at Lake Washington, St. Peter, limit of sunnies caught at a depth of 9-feet, some 9-inches or better; Big Swan produced a 7-pound walleye; the 8th Annual Fishing Contest at Petermann's had seven contestants and was won with an 8-pound, 10-ounce channel catfish caught by Ross Nelson. Ross was presented with the Mecklenberg Scholarship Fund Traveling Trophy, and the Fund was presented a \$70.00 check by Dick Petermann. Thanks for hosting the contest, Pete!

*Riverblast: Special thanks to Elmer Epke for bringing his grill and for all the work he did; Jason Kuester thanks everyone who helped with the NUAFS Food Stand; everything went well; final tally was not available at meeting time, and discussion was tabled; it was duly noted, however, that more help is needed at clean-up time Sunday a.m.; a specific sign-up just for this purpose was discussed.

*Clubhouse and Grounds News: Fall Clean-up is set for Saturday, Oct. 25th. Meet at the Clubhouse at 10:00 a.m.

*High Island Lake: Five years in the making, the lake will be drawn down Oct. 1st; Four million walleye fry will be stocked in Spring. Bass and perch will be added the following year. The lake will have a maximum depth of 12-feet.

*Turner Hall was very pleased with its food stand at Riverblast. They ran out of food towards the end there once. (Heck, teach 'em t' fish!)

*Jim Hulke has changed all the Club's trailer-hitches to 2" balls. Thanks, Jim!

*Jason Kuester will turn in a bill for his work on the parking lot and grounds.

Thanks, Jason!

*Board display for past scholarship recipients is still in progress.

*Any further nominations for Officer and Board positions should be given to Ross Nelson.

*Winter Fishing Trip to High Banks is set for Jan. 8th to 11th. Price close to last year's \$140.00. Last year, 38 people were in the party. This year, if 45 can participate, a one week trip for four will be donated as a prize for the NUASF Ice Fishing Contest. If you're interested, please commit as soon as possible because we'll need to get the correct information on our contest posters and tickets. Call Orville Rannow at 276-2001.

*Ice Fishing Contest: Tickets need to be done by November meeting; posters done by Nov. 19th. Jason Kuester has been working on a new major sponsor and needs accurate contest info by Nov. 5th.

*Food for October meeting: Olie O., Glen R., and Dave W. will provide the victuals (pronounced "vittles").

Page 3

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