



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.

Environmental Protection Agency lives up to its name

By Scott Sparlin,
President Emeritus

On January 23rd, the Environmental Protection Agency lived up to its name by protecting the water in the Minnesota River. Plans to draw water from the river for the proposed Big Stone II project will have to be shelved for now. Plant officials have 60 days to appeal the ruling, but "Like I said, it ain't over 'til it's over and it ain't quite over yet, but I can hear the winds of change blowin', how 'bout you?"

And this via Scott from Paul Austin of Conservation Minnesota: "Governor's Conservation Budget Raises Questions." Dateline, Jan. 29th, 2009: "In the fine print of his proposed budget, Gov. Pawlenty [ed. from the land of "pawlenty" is enough] acknowledges that funds from the recently passed Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment are not available to offset the projected budget deficit. The language of the constitutional amendment clearly states that the new funds may not be used to substitute for traditional funding sources. But budget cuts proposed by Pawlenty recently, including cuts to clean water programs and fish-and-wildlife habitat work, are inconsistent with what 1.6 million Minnesotans voted for, and raise serious questions that must be answered." Pawlenty's proposed budget should leave Minnesotans to wonder: How will

cutting the Clean Water Partnership program help increase water cleanup efforts that voters overwhelmingly approved last November? How does reducing general fund support for conservation, to its lowest level in history, keep faith with voters' demands, and their investment, to increase conservation efforts within the spirit of the amendment?

How will unspecified agency-wide cuts be implemented, and how will voters know that amendment

funds are not used as a substitute? How can any dramatic cuts in traditional funding sources not be seen as an abuse of amendment funds, which are meant for long-term investments, to backfill agency budgets? For more information and to participate in the on-going Q&A, visit conservationminnesota.org; Paul Austin can be reached at

Paul@conservationminnesota.org. Good questions always deserve good answers!



Girls fishing at Clear Lake. Photo by Don Borstad

Club Calendar

February 8thFishing Contest—Success!

February 19thSocial Night at the Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.

February 26thMeeting at the Clubhouse, 7:00 p.m.



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From the President

By Jason Kuester

First things first, I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped with the ice fishing contest. Everyone did a great job selling tickets, collecting prizes, and running the event out on the ice!!! This was NUASF best contest on the lake. We had over 1000 people on the lake and it took everyone to make an event like this a success.

Thanks Again!!

The next meeting is "Fish Dish Night". (YAY) If you like fish (and who doesn't) you will want to be at the next meeting! I invite you to bring your best fish dish to pass or just bring some fillets. In the past we have had fish sultz, pickled fish, Pete's smoked fish, Scotts Cajun Fish Gumbo, fish chowder and many other great dishes. As always with our February meeting we will be having DNR fisheries staff on hand to give us updates on Clear Lake, Lake Hanska, Sleepy Eye Lake, and the Minnesota River.

I would like to thank Eric Olson for filling our bellies at the last meeting with some delicious Montana venison steak. Eric has also been very generous in the past and present by donating trips to Canada for our club. One of these trips is handed out to the member who signs up the most new members for the year. The other trip is given away as a big prize at our ice fishing contest by purchasing a five dollar raffle ticket. Eric would also like everyone to know that there are some openings on July 4th – 10th for three or more people to come up to Canada fishing. The cost is \$700.00 per person for a three day trip. There are also some members going up over this weekend. If you are interested contact Eric at 406-395-4515 for more details. We would like to give Eric a big Thank You for everything he has done for our club.

Due to the warm weather, we have removed all of the club fish houses off of Clear Lake. If you are interested in using the ice house(s) they are parked at Berg landing by Clear Lake. There are only a couple of weeks left before all ice houses have to be removed from the ice. The deadline is February 28th. Due to all the rain and warmer temps many of the lakes are starting to open up where creeks and culverts run into them. Please be safe whenever going onto the ice.

We are always looking for new friends and ideas. Feel free to bring them to the next meeting. We will be discussing dates for events for the rest of the year.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!!

Look how fish live

No one knows how the river hamlet of Courtland bagged such a convention, or why the attendees swam such great distances from their native northern waters, but this Hook, Line, and Sinker editor was issued a press-pass to attend the recent Confraternity of Benthic Fish, held recently under the ice of the Minnesota River. In attendance were the likes of Bobby Ray Burbot, a "lawyer" out of Babbitt, whose only pout about the meeting facilities was his discomfort in the shallows: no rocky structures adjacent to deeper water had been provided. Burbot's wife, Elaine Eelpout-Burbot, quite attractive

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**Hook, Line,
and Sinker**

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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)

Look how fish live continued from page 2

for a rough fish and looking very much like her spouse, concurred, and added, "And the night-foraging was just average." It seemed to be a family-type affair. Relatives in attendance were Ling Cod Ling, of Tibet, Gary Gudgeon, a "lush" from Lake of the Woods, Connie Cusk, a mottled brown and spotted ex-stripper from Winnipeg, Marcus Mud Blower, the famous architect of the annual International Eelpout Festival, out of Leech Lake and Walker, and from parts unknown and appearing quite goutish, Conrad "Spineless" Catfish. The highlight of the night was this quip, overheard during Bobby Ray Burbot's address to the academics of the school: "So much in life is pure luck, no matter what us fish want you to think."

CRANK BAIT

The Hemingway Code: Fighting, F!@#\$\$%^, and Fishing (in no particular order).

MEETING NOTES from January 21st

- *Membership stands at 179, with 33 memberships due. Orin Schultz is tops in the Membership Drive with 13 new members.
- *Area Lakes and Rivers: Clear Lake (as reported by Scott D and Dave M) had great fishing, but catching not so good. Small sunnies at St. James and Sleepy Eye. 1 Fish-house on Sleepy Eye Lake, 3 on Clear Lake. Jim H and Mark D did a great job on getting the fish-houses in shape.
- *Clubhouse and Grounds: People are reminded to please clean up after meetings or any other times they visit. A dust mop will be purchased.
- *Club Jackets: Sign up with Ross N. Specify winter or spring coat. Ross is still checking prices.
- *Belle Plaine River Cleanup: Meeting will be held in mid-Feb., with main organizers of the event. Contact Tony Miller if you can attend. Tony is looking for crew leaders. Also, Tony will be presenting a PowerPoint show depicting the cleanup progress at the next meeting.
- *The Board of Directors is in agreement with the ending balance of the recent audit.
- *Clear Lake: Aeration system has been started up and all thin ice signs are in place. 23 members helped with the project. An email was sent out for help and got a great response.
- *High Island Fundraiser: Donation request approved unanimously.
- *Scott S reported on the DNR Roundtable he attended. Scott senses an opportunity for some funding for various club projects and will handle the necessary paperwork. Members were asked to think about projects or programs that are in line with the NUASF mission statement. The club will cover Scott's expenses for the meeting.
- *Fishing Contest Update: Prize collection going well; raffle tickets available; Frabil Ice House purchased by Al Z, Frabil donated some other items. Al also procured some product-donations from Northland; all permits and licenses are covered; meeting at the Clubhouse Feb. 5th to coordinate prizes and assignments, etc. for the contest; sign-up sheet for working the food booth.
- *Food for next meeting, Feb. 26th: Fish-Dish Night—bring something fishy to pass.
- *DNR Fisheries Report.
- *Take care out there!

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