



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.

High Island Lake Reclamation on Track

By Scott Sparlin Ex. Dir. CMR, Watershed Initiative Coordinator for FMV, Paast President NUASF

Much planning and a lot of work have gone into the reclamation of High Island Lake this past year.

Friends of High Island along with their numerous partners completed projects designed to improve water quality in the impaired High Island Watershed. The projects were undertaken in tributaries to High Island Lake, High Island Creek and the lake itself which ultimately drains the Minnesota River. Numerous best management practices have also been adopted with the help of the Clean Water Partnership which is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

In May over 25 volunteers participated in a barley straw project which was both experimental and effective in reducing phosphorus. Using a Christmas tree bailer, long (15-20 ft.) bales of barley straw were placed in streams that drained to High Island Lake. This process has been effective in reducing phosphorus and algae in other parts of the United States, Great Britain and in Minnesota as well.

Monitoring samples were taken throughout the summer and fall by Joel Wurscher which showed a localized significant reduction of phosphorus. The project has been a learning experience for all and will be fine tuned to make it even more effective this next year.

A number of meetings with both government and non-government entities during the past year have resulted in the creation of an excellent road map for moving forward with the lake draw down. After many discussions and numerous communications, all parties are now on the same page. The situation now exists which allow for a timely and most effective draw down this year and into the future years when and if needed. The plans include modifications to the outlets to the lake along with the control structure. This will allow for a thorough draw down and an accelerated water flow coming from the lake during any planned draw down event. Some of the modifications are in place now and some will be completed this winter. They are being funded by

Friends of High Island from donations received during our Mid-Winter Bash fund raiser and from our many partners as well. Subsequently if the lake experiences a good freeze out this winter, walleye fry will be put in the lake and the water control structure will be utilized to return the lake levels back to normal some time in spring 2010.

This fall another rain garden was constructed in the city of New Auburn to volunteers with the help of Al Odenthal. This brings the total to 7 that have been constructed in the city over the past 3 years. This upcoming year a large rain garden is being planned for construction on the north end of town with a completion date slated for late summer. New Auburn intends to have the entire community's stormwater system consist of rain gardens in stead of the more conventional curb and gutter that most cities have. This will further help the lake recover and ensure clean runoff to the lake from the city of New Auburn into the future.

The **Friends of High Island** are having their annual Mid-Winter Bash on Saturday, January 23rd at the High Island Hideaway in New Auburn with great food, refreshments, a program about the lake, a raffle, door prizes, entertainment and more. The public is invited and welcome. Dinner tickets are available by calling Scott Sparlin at 507-276-2280 and leave message on the number of tickets needed and who they are for.

Club Calendar

Wednesday, January 27th . . Board Meeting, Clubhouse, 5:30 p.m.
General Meeting, Clubhouse, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 11th . . .Deadline to turn in all prizes for the
fishing contest. Special meeting at the
clubhouse to organize prizes, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 14thNUASF Ice Fishing Contest, Clear Lake
Happy Valentine's Day & Lunar New Year!
February 18th – 21st Club Ice Fishing Trip, Dixon Lake



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From the President

By Jason Kuester

Hello! Our next meeting has been changed to Wednesday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m. As most of you all know, Eric Olson will be visiting us at our next meeting. Eric is a wonderful asset to our club and we would like to THANK him for his support. Eric donates trips for our Fishing Contest, membership drive, and also provides us with a great meal at our January meeting. To help with this great meal we are asking everyone to bring a dish to pass.

There will be a board meeting on Wednesday, January 27 at 5:30 p.m. (sharp). In this meeting we will be discussing our year end audit, and going over club policies. All board members should be present for this meeting.

As everyone knows our fishing tournament is February 14th. We should have the prizes collected, and the posters in place within the next couple weeks. Ticket sales can continue up to the day of the contest. Once again, this is our club's biggest moneymaker, and we will need many volunteers for this event. Tickets and posters are available at the next meeting or by contacting Ross Nelson at 507-766-0765 or me at 507-381-2041 or by email at jr@newulmtel.net and we will get you as many as you would like.

All prizes must be turned into the club on or before Thursday, February 11th. We will be having a special meeting on the 11th at 6:00 p.m. to organize all of the prizes for the contest.

We still have a few openings for the Club Ice Fishing Trip. If you want to attend the ice fishing trip to Dixon Lake Resort on February 18th-21st, please have your \$50.00 payment to me at the next meeting on Wednesday the 27th. If you are interested in this trip and can't make the meeting, contact me at 507-381-2041 or email me at jr@newulmtel.net. The total for the trip is \$115.00 per person for three nights. There will be a \$10.00 per day charge for an angling house and \$30.00 per day for the spearing houses. They have room for 20 people in their angling houses and about 25 spearing houses available. This first come, first serve, so if you need an ice house, let me know.

The club houses are on Clear Lake. Remember to clean up the houses and remove your garbage when you leave. Good Luck Fishing!!!!

Winter is here and what a great time to bring our friends and family to the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen Club. We are always looking for new members to join. If you know of someone interested, bring them along and show them how much fun we have at our club. As always, bring a friend and each of you will receive a free refreshment of your choice!

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

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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 Hulke (354-3654), Dave Mecklenburg (794-7859), Ken Sutherland (354-4140).
Hook, Line & Sinker Editor - Franz Kitzberger (359-8944)

CRANK BAIT

Be patient and calm, for no one can catch fish in anger.
—an ancient Zen Master

MEETING NOTES from December 30th

*50 members present. Membership stands at 197 with 33 due. Erv Weinkauff wins the 2009 membership drive with 7 new members. Good on ya, Erv! And welcome new members!

*Area Lakes and Rivers Reports: Eric Olson will bring steaks for January meeting. WCCO reported that a fishing party (from Wisconsin?), fishing on Upper Red Lake, was apprehended with far too many fish for comfort; Lake Hanska: Fishing OK, but patience should be exercised; Lake of the Woods: small saugers, otherwise limits were caught; Clear Lake: good fishing!

*Clubhouse and Grounds Update: Tony Miller reported on repairs to outhouse and steps, and we received a thank-you note from the Miller family for use of the clubhouse for their Christmas party.

*Discussion on replacement of the club swordfish, which decorates the outside of the clubhouse. (Franz K. put in a bid, but no action was taken. Holy mackerel!) Jim Hulke and Orv Rannow suggested that Jim Liebl be commissioned to create some "shadow figures" to replace the swordfish. Motion was made and passed unanimously. Discussion on plowing of driveway and parking lot. It was decided that Jason K.'s expenses should be covered and that Jason should submit a bill as necessary for his services. Discussion of insurance coverage for LP gas-tank theft. Tony Miller said that a police report must be filed. Concerns noted about a possible rate-hike if claim is made. Tony M. will check this issue out.

*Jason Kuester (speaking for Scott Sparlin/not present) asked for a monetary donation to High Island Lake Reclamation Project. Donation passed unanimously.

*Thin Ice signs placed on Clear Lake, 12/26/09. Aeration system was started. Thanks to all who helped!

*Dixon Lake Resort Fishing Trip: Dates set, 30 members signed up so far, room for 10 more. See Jason K. if interested.

*Ice Fishing Contest: Posters are printed and available; prize collecting is going well; Orv Rannow will donate two bicycles for kids' free raffle. Looking for a volunteer for this event.

*Ice Houses: 2 on Clear Lake, 1 on Lake Hanska. All are in pretty good shape. You're asked to keep them clean and to place blocks under them when slush becomes a problem. Make sure the jacks are turned up before moving the houses. Jacks are used for lifting the houses only. Jim Hulke has some old fish-house jacks for sale. See him if interested.

*Food for January meeting: Eric Olson will supply the steaks! Please bring your favorite side-dish to balance things out.

*Gary Sprenger asked to reserve the clubhouse on January 15th for a Lost Dog and Fox Club meeting. Motion to allow usage passed unanimously.

*Tony Miller reported that the NUASF checking account has been transferred from Alliance Bank to United Prairie Bank.

TAKE CARE OUT THERE! Speak softly and don't assume too much . . .

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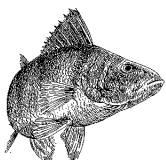
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