



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.

RIVER RANGER PROGRAM ...Kindling A Passion

By Ron Bolduan

Mission: To trigger participants interest, passion and appreciation for the natural environment they live in. Hands-on experience increases awareness and generates long term value systems.

In 2009 a small group of New Ulm outdoor enthusiasts asked themselves how to best share the pleasure derived from their outdoor experiences. A decision was made to invite young people to join the ongoing efforts at relocating stranded mussels. Minnesota's freshwater mussel population is suffering a serious decline, so in low water periods we patrol the Cottonwood River and move mussels from cut off areas to main channels. Our goal is to improve their survivability prospects. Having witnessed public interest displayed during DNR ecologist/mollusk expert Mike Davis' 2009 mussel survey of the Cottonwood River, it seemed the perfect kickoff project. Mindful of the competition for young people's time, we labeled our outing, 'mussel rescue/shell gathering' adventure — — more alluring than asking youngsters to join us for a walk in the river.

Between the appeal of helping save a species in trouble and collecting shells for our mussel display at the Regional River History Center of New Ulm, the participants clearly found the trek rewarding. This positive response inspired us to begin planning a long range, organized effort at involving young people, and the River Ranger Program was born.

By August 2010 our mission and guidelines defined, we were ready to proceed.

The Program:

River Ranger Program focuses primarily, but not exclusively upon youth participation. Adult assistants also qualify for River Ranger status. With an all volunteer staff, adult helpers are needed for the program to function. Adult staff displaying River Ranger buttons encourages young participants to view the program as more than "kids stuff".



Target Participants:

All young people interested in making a difference are encouraged to join. There is no minimum age requirement. However, during outings or programs those under 8 years old should be accompanied by an older guardian.

River Ranger Status:

To achieve River Ranger status you must accumulate three points from two categories. The two categories are In-Field Environmental Learning and Environmental Cleanup. One of the three points must come from the cleanup category. In-field activities include group trips to DNR scientific nature areas, state parks, national wildlife refuges, learning centers, river walks, etc. Attending monthly lectures during the winter months also qualify as in-field learning.

Cleanup activities will be either taking part in a group cleanup project, such as a Spring or Fall leaf cleanup, or gathering litter during hikes and river walks.

Rewards:

All members receive a River Ranger button. Under 18 members receive a River Ranger Certificate and a free River Ranger tee shirt. For now, adult mem-

bers will need to purchase their tee shirts.

Though the unusually wet late summer of 2010 and the resulting high water levels curtailed our primary goal of river walks, we had an expanded 'to do' list for the group. In the period between August 15 and Late October we managed one mini river walk, two trips to explore the Granite Falls area, one day of hiking and crafts at Minneopa State Park, Mankato and a leaf cleanup at Riverside Park/Regional River History Center site in New Ulm. From the first limited walk on the Cottonwood River to the final two events at Minneopa State Park and Riverside Park the turnout grew to nearly fifty people.

To avoid a winter letdown New Ulm Public Library agreed to host and advertise monthly River Ranger programs by guest speakers. This was also a success, with attendance averaging nearly forty five people per program. We are both proud and pleased with the quick public acceptance of the endeavor!

Future efforts are directed toward continuing with numerous outings and finding the means to move forward on new projects. We are striving to provide shared digital camera kits for the group with a plan for a Ranger craft/photo exhibit at Riverside Park this summer. There is also a plan to create a butterfly garden at Riverside Park, planted and maintained by the Rangers. An Adopt a Drain leaf and litter clean up program is in the works as well.

To become involved with or to assist the River Ranger Program contact:
Ron Bolduan 507-354-8367
boldriva@newulmtel.net

Club Calendar

Thursday, March 31st . . . General Meeting at the Clubhouse, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 14th . . . Social Night at the Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 24th . . . Easter
Thursday, April 28th . . . General Meeting at the Clubhouse, 7:30 p.m.



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From the President

By Jason Kuester

We will be awarding the Stoney award at the March meeting. If you have someone you would like to nominate please nominate them by e-mailing me at jr@newulmtel.net or by nominating them at the meeting on March 31st. The Stoney award goes to the member who has given the most towards improving the quality of sport fishing in the New Ulm area.

Just an early reminder, we will be discussing our spring clean up projects at the next meeting. They are the: Community Clean Up for Water Quality, Club Grounds, and the Riverbank Clean Up. This is a great event for our club in preserving the cleanliness of our rivers and city.

We would like to give a huge THANK YOU to the Berg (Randy, Junior/Robert) family. If it were not for them we would not have been able to have access to Clear Lake. They are a huge part in making our contest such a hit. If you see them please tell them how gracious we are of them and how much they have contributed to our club's success.

I would also like to recognize Mike and Jeff Studtmann for putting together the 3rd annual Willmar Studtmann Memorial Ice Fishing contest at Studtmann Pond. It was a great way to spend an afternoon with friends and family. All proceeds from this event went to the E.E. Mecklenburg scholarship. Thank you to all who attended!!

Spring is in the air and what a great time to bring our friends and family to join. If you know of someone 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!

We are always looking for new 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!!

Fishing Contest Photos by Don Borstad



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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

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MEETING NOTES from February 24th

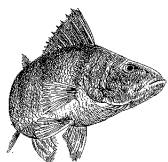
- *Members present: 45+
- *Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were read and approved unanimously.
- *Membership Update: Membership stands at 198 with 60 due; 2 new members.
- *Area Lakes and Rivers Report: Clear Lake, road near the public landing is open; Lake Ballard, 9,086 Walleyes & Sauger cleaned this season; Lake Washington, St. Peter, good crappie fishing at 26 feet.
- *Clubhouse and Grounds Update: Thanks to Dave Mecklenburg and Orv and Brady for cleaning the snow off the roof of the clubhouse. Also thanks to Jason for putting grit down on the driveway and grounds.
- *Other Old Business: None.
- *Ice House Updates: Ron Ludewig took the icehouses off Clear Lake on Tuesday, 2/15.
- *Garbage and trash left on the lake has been a problem this season; please take off what you bring on, and always help and pick-up.
- *Road off the lake after the fishing contest was bad. NUASF did our best to open up the road. People should know that they go out on the lake at their own risk.
- *Thanks to Orin Schultz for storing the houses again this year.
- *House will need to be painted before next season.
- *Randy and Rhonda Berg will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Carl's Corner in Essig for their generosity in allowing NUASF to use their landing for lake access again this season.
- *Financial Report, Tony Miller. Please contact Tony for specific numbers, amounts, and details: Tony has developed a new invoicing method that seems to be working very well, and he says he is getting business responses back much faster than before. Ice-Fishing Contest Report: Another successful contest, with full report presented at the March meeting. Thanks to all who helped and participated. Special thanks to some of our major sponsors: Hy-Vee, Runnings, and Scheel's. Jason has been working with the "Ice Castle" people in preparation for a possible special raffle to help celebrate our 25th Annual Contest next season. For more information or if you have ideas, please contact Jason. He will also report at the March meeting.
- *Willmar Studtmann Memorial Ice Fishing Contest will be Held on Saturday, March 12th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please call Mike Studtmann, 507-995-3074 for more info or with any questions. Most members should have gotten an email notice from Mike. Also, Mike says that the Courtland Fish Fry is also taking place that day—good excuse to wander over to Studtmann Pond!
- *Dixon Lake Trip Report: "Trip was fun. Resort did a good job." (Apparently, what happens there, stays there.)
- *Joe Felleggy gave another entertaining and informative talk.
- *As did the retired Sen. Dennis Frederickson, re: his new job with the DNR. Congratulations, Denny!
- *Food for March meeting: Use up Brats leftover from the contest; please bring a dish to pass.
- *Elmer Epke is in the hospital; will send a card.
- *Check from Isaac Walton League received for use of clubhouse for a meeting.
- *A bunch of Thank You notes were received from some of the kids who attended the River Ranger program we sponsored this past summer.
- *Don't forget the Ken Spoon print raffle. We'll select a winner at the April meeting.
- *Nominations have been opened for the Annual Stoney Award. Voting and winner announced at the March meeting.
- *Jason K. was advised to bill the club for all his snow removal and maintenance he has performed at the club grounds and at Clear Lake over this long, crazy winter. Thanks, Jason!

FILLET BOARD - memberships due for March 2011

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