



Hook, Line, and Sinker

April
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New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen • P.O. Box 294 • New Ulm, MN 56073 Web Site: newulmsportfish.org

Crappie fishing just around the corner

Crappie Tactics

Some of the finest Crappie fishing is just around the corner, if it ever quits snowing and the water warms up. The following was obtained from and is accredited to "John On Fishing" at www.crappie.com. For more on crappie fishing go to this web address: <http://www.crappie.com/johna/johna.htm>

Crappie are fairly active year round, but fall and spring offer the hottest fishing. The warming spring water temperatures triggers a feed-a-thon amongst fish. Crappie spawn when the water temperature reaches about 52-60 degrees. Just before spawning (when the water hits about 48-51 degrees), they move into shallower water and feed aggressively. This is known as the pre-spawn period. Most crappie move into shoreline cover such as fallen trees and shallow coves during this time. The females will then lay their eggs and move to slightly deeper water while the males stay in the shallows and guard the nest. If you catch several smaller fish in shallow water, try moving to the nearest dropoff and you may find the larger females feeding. These pre-spawn and spawn periods of spring often offer the best fishing of the year. The cooling water of the fall also offers good crappie fishing. When the warm summer waters begin to cool down, the fish begin feeding aggressively in order to fatten up for the winter. Schools of big slabs can be caught easily

during this "fall feed-up". Crappie are fish that love structure, so key in on areas with prominent cover. Rock piles, shallow coves, stumps, points, fallen trees, and submerged brush are all favorites. Many anglers sink Christmas trees, old bushes, tires, and even wooden pallet's to create homes for big fish. Vertical jigging is a good method to fish submerged cover. A 1/32 or 1/16 oz. jig dropped into brush and twitched will produce many fish if the conditions are right. Try swimming a small spinner through stump fields or along fallen trees to locate the slabs. When you identify the depth at which most of the fish are holding, try suspending a jig or minnow at that depth under a small bobber. This is an effective way to keep your bait in the desired depth for a much longer period of time.

Crappie Baits

Crappie are versatile feeders, eating most types of insects, worms, and small crayfish and minnows. This variety of forage makes choosing baits for crappie fairly simple. Just about every angler has one bait that he or she swears will outfish any other. This is because that person probably uses

that particular bait much more than any other. This is not necessarily a bad thing, however, because having confidence in your bait is almost as important as having a bait at all. As a rule of thumb, if the fish are eating it, keep using it. When the fish seem to stop eating it, don't keep using it. If the fish aren't biting, you can try three things:

- Try a different presentation. That is slow down, speed up, twitch, or change



your retrieve in some way.

- Try a different color lure. Crappie are especially famous for being color picky. Simply switching from a green jig to a yellow one can make the difference between a few bites and a stringer of slabs.
- Change baits completely. If you have been using minnows all day and have caught no fish, try switching to a small spinner or jig. The fish could want something with more or less action than your bait produces, so you must experiment until you find what they want. Most baits will catch plenty of fish provided they are presented to the fish in the right way at the right time. That means choosing a lure is about 50% trial-and-error and 50% your preference. Though minnows and worms are often very effective for catching crappie, I rarely use them because of their cost and/or effort to catch them.

Club Calendar

April 25th NUASF Club Meeting

May 9th NUASF Social Night at Club House

May 30th NUASF Club Meeting

June 13th NUASF Social Night at Club House

June 27th NUASF Club Meeting



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From the President

By Jason Kuester

First things first, at the last meeting we elected our winner for the Stoney Award. The Stoney Award goes out to the member who gives time and time again. We all know there are many members that do this and I would like to thank all of our members for making this such a great organization. At the next meeting we will be presenting Wes Ludewig with this great award. Thanks Wes for all your hard work and dedication to our club.

I would like to thank everyone that showed up for the Community Clean Up For Water Quality. We had many volunteers this year. After we got done cleaning up around town and down at the river we all headed out to the club house for spring clean up. Great job everyone!!!!

Spring is in the air and what a great time to bring our friends and family to the New Ulm Area Sport Fisherman Club. We are always looking for new members 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!

Hope to see you at the next meeting!!

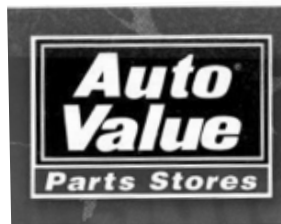


From Scott Sparlin

Spring Community Clean Up for Water Quality

On a blustery Saturday April 6th 2013, approximately 20 volunteers helped to pick up numerous bags of organic debris from the city streets and storm drains in New Ulm which was then taken to the compost site. They also removed trash from the riverbanks of the Minnesota River at several locations and recycled picked up materials from city curbs as well. Pictured with one of the loads of garbage are members of the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River and Brown County Sentence to Serve who were on hand doing the work. The City of New Ulm Park and Recreation provided assistance and disposal. All partners were treated to a bratwurst barbeque after the clean up.

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426 North Minnesota Street
New Ulm, MN 56073
507-354-4164



**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

President - Jason Kuester (381-2041); Vice-President - Gary Sprenger (359-9358); Secretary - Ross Nelson (507-766-0765) Treasurer - Tony Miller (354-2457); Board Members: Ron Ludewig (507-276-6093), Mike Buechner (354-2739 s), Ken Sutherland (507-276-1534).

Monthly Meeting March 28, 2013 Members present 60+

I. Secretary Report

- A) Motion made by Jim Liebl and seconded Jim Hulke to accept report as read.
Passed unanimously.

II. Treasury Report

- A) Balance
B) Motion made by Jim Liebl and seconded by Jim Hulke to accept report as read.
Passed unanimously.
C) Fishing Contest Update – 2036 tickets sold on the ice.

III. Old Business

- A) Membership update.
1) Membership stands at 200 – 32 Due. Jason Kuester leads w/ 7
B) Area Lakes and Rivers Report.
1) Clear Lake – Thin Ice
2) Washington and Elysian – people are still driving on the ice.
C) Club House and Grounds Update.
1) Should side the boat house and put gutters on the club house. Gary Sprenger will get bids.
2) Jim Hulke donated back to the club his gift certificate from Liq Mart to the club.

IV) Other Old Business

- A) Fish Contest – 207 fish registered
B) Winners – Game Fish: 1st Dylan Armstrong -.79oz bullhead,
2nd Landon Uhde-.73 bass,
3rd Karson Hoffman-.73oz bullhead
Panfish – 1st Monica Kirchberg-.45oz Crappie, 2nd Ken Fluegge-.44oz perch,
3rd Dylan Armstrong-.43oz crappie
Fish caught by species: 99 carppies, 56 sunfish, 21 walleye, 13 Bass, 10 bull head, 9 perch
C) Thank You was read by the Family of Ervin Fischer

V) New Business

- A) Stoney Award Nominations.
1) Al Rader, Ron Bolduan, Wes Ludewig, Dick Pettermann, Tony Miller
B) River Rangers Update by Ron Bolduan – Motion was made by Jim Liebl and seconded by Orin
Schultz to cover expenses, passed
C) Club will give the Berg's 2 -gift certificates to Carl's Corner for use of their landing this winter. Mike Buechner will deliver.
D) Asian carp presentation by Anthony Sellner and others.
E) Community Cleanup for water quality April 6th meet at Riverside Park 9AM
F) Willmar Studtmann Memorial Club Fishing Contest Update.
1) 25 members attended. Lots of fun and lots of fish were caught. Mike Buechner family caught the
Largest fish to win contest.

- 2) Money was raised on the ice, matched by the Studtmann family, money was given to club member Mike Deinken to help his son who has had health issues.
3) Studtmann family gave a donation to the EE Mechlenberg Scholarship which was also matched
by Mike Studtmann's employer, Verizon.

VI) Other New Business

- A) Stoney Award Winner – Wes Ludewig
B) Food next meeting – Dish to Pass

VII) Adjourn

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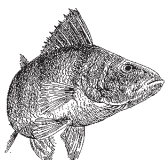
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