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The ethics of fishing
 By Gary Korsgaden Courtesy of: PARK RAPIDS ENTERPRISE
<https://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/sports/outdoors>

What impact does better fishing electronics have on the fisheries resource? How does fishing spots marked with GPS coordinates, shared readily with others, affect game fish populations? Or the growing popularity of luxury home sleeper wheelhouses? What will the additional day and night fishing pressure do to the fishing and the resource?

These are questions often discussed in the boat, fish house, coffee shop and campfires around the state—questions that are now being discussed at citizen specie resource committee meetings organized by the Minnesota DNR around the state.

There are no easy answers, that is for sure. Or do we do anything at all? How do we get the message out about the importance of ethical fishing practices and focus on how wrong it is taking more fish then legally allowed?

Ninety percent of fish harvested from a body of water can happen during the winter. The resources are accessible, and people have more time for fishing during the winter compared to the summer.

With more anglers fishing longer hours on the ice, it is possible a spike in fish harvest is happening.

Are anglers getting the message of the importance of ethical harvest practices that fits best for the resource? For example, an angler relatively new to fishing recently shared his experience on a hot crappie bite with a friend of his. The lake had a five crappie limit. The crappie were found in 35 feet of water and very cooperative. Instead of keeping a limit of five fish apiece and stopping, they kept fishing, releasing the smaller ones, concentrating on keeping only the bigger fish. The pair admitted to releasing 80

to 90 crappie in one evening, assuming that all the fish released survived, which is not always the case. Crappie caught in deeper water, then released, are at risk for delayed mortality.

At an area lake, several wheelhouses converged on a hot crappie spot. They were part of a larger statewide organization with over 15,000 members. On a lake of less than 500 acres, the group fished day and night. They wanted only the larger crappie. They tried to release the smaller ones. Realizing the fish that could not be released, they refused to keep the fish. They chose to bury them in the snow, with the carcass remains of crappie that were cleaned and taken home. They relied on fishing spots marked with GPS coordinates shared from another wheelhouse outing.

Another group converged on Lake of the Woods, camped on a walleye/sauger spot. During three days of fishing, they caught eight limits of walleye and sauger, all which were consumed while on the ice, then kept a limit for each angler to take home.

It is not the wheelhouse that causes concern. Instead it's those inside, raising eyebrows.

In my opinion, we shouldn't blame or limit wheelhouses with special restrictions. The popularity of ice fishing has increased with better equipment, and wheelhouses are part of the boom. Comfortable wheelhouses and warmer clothing enhances the appeal for more people to ice fish and stay out longer on the lakes. Placing more restrictions could curb fishing enjoyment and participation. Instead, let's educate anglers as to why it is critically important to always practice ethical fishing for the long-term sustainability of the resource. Limits are set for a reason and it's important to adhere to them.


Club Calendar

April 12th NUASF Social Night at Club House
 April 26th NUASF Club Meeting
 May 17th NUASF Social Night at Club House

May 31st..... NUASF Club Meeting
 June 14th NUASF Social Night at Club House
 June 28th 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 Pat Roiger with this great award. Thanks Pat for all your hard work and dedication to our club.

We are always looking for new ideas. Feel free to bring them to the next meeting. We will be discussing dates for upcoming events during the year. We will also talk about fundraising ideas for 2018. As everyone knows the club wants to remain very active in the community. If you can’t make the next meeting please email or call me with your ideas.... Note: Ice house tickets will be available in July

I would also like to recognize the Studtma[®] family for putting together the 9th annual Willmar Studtmann Memorial Ice Fishing contest at Studtmann Pond. We had great weather and ice on the pond everyone had a great time!! It was a great way to spend an afternoon with friends and family. We had around 20 members at the pond. Thank you to all who attended!!

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!

NUASF Monthly Meeting March 29, 2018 Members Present: 46

I. Secretary Report - Report excepted as read.

II. Treasury Report - Report excepted as read.

III. Old Business

A. Membership update 154 Members w/ 30 Due (17 this month)

B. Area Lakes and Rivers Report:

- Madison Lake - Crappies
- Devils Lake - Tough fish but ate good and brought fish home
- Eel Pout - A Lot of fish caught. #229 lbs of fish caught with Jason’s group.

C. Club House & Grounds News:

- Didn’t plow snow.
- Thanks to those that cleaned up after the contest.
- Need to keep an eye on the garbages

D. Other Old Business:

- Gibbon sports club (Brian)

IV. New Business

A. Board Meeting info

- Jen’s Financial Report - Report accepted as read
Approval passed unanimously by the members present.
- 2018 Board Approvals - Report accepted as read
Approval passed unanimously by the members present.
- Land Purchase Account - Report accepted as read

B. Pro Kinship for Kids (Kari Beran)

- Kari gave an overview of last year’s activities.
- How many kids? - In New Um there are 61 enrolled.



426 North Minnesota Street
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**Hook, Line,
and Sinker**

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The NUASF Board
President - Jason Kuester 507-381-2041; Vice-President - Gary Sprenger 507-359-9358; Secretary - Ross Nelson 507-766-0765; Treasurer - Jen Kuester 507-766-0143; Board Members: Mike Buechner 507-354-2739, Wyman Forbrook 507-420-5828, Mike Studtmann 507-995-3074.

C. Boy Scouts (Grant Diedrich)

- Grant gave an overview of the program.
- Provided a plaque to the club as an appreciation of thanks for the help the club gives.

D. History Learning Center (Ron Bouldan)

- Overview of the program’s year.
- Now have heated during the winter to allow year round access. Adding handicapped accessible bathroom
- Was on Pioneer Public Television program. Google the info to watch.

E. Scott Sparlin

- Fishing 1,2,3
 - a) Dates set, same format. 2nd Tues in June, 3rd Tues, and 3rd Thurs in June (3pm-5pm). Looking for help with food. Have some volunteers but looking for more.
- High School Fishing Classes
 - a) Originally scheduled for next thurs/ friday, but delayed due to pond conditions. Schedule to come out.
- MN River Congress
 - a) May 17th @ Kato Ballroom. Getting a notification sent out for dates, brand new website has been created.
- Water Action Day at the Capital
 - a) May 2nd. Last year 8 attended, anyone want to go this year with Scott, let him know.

F. MN DNR Fisheries (Scott Mackenthun)

- Talked about shallow lakes management. Clear Lake 12/22/17 stocked pike. 15 perch per net at last study and at good levels.
- Ortonville station has prespawn yellow perch for Clear Lake at Gibbon.
- Talked about oxygen level management and Clear Lake levels.
- New Pike regulations, get out and get fishing licenses.
- Questions:
 - a) Will the Pike knock down the crappie population?
 - (1) Shouldn’t as they’ll get after the bullheads and yellow perch.
 - b) Is it possible for perch to get stocked in Clear Lake.
 - (1) Would like to watch the levels as there are already a sufficient amount.
 - c) Are the Northerns you put in, how much and what size
 - (1) 166 fish
 - (2) Size is from 15”- upper 20”s”
 - d) Lake Hanska
 - (1) Channel Cats high
 - e) Does High Island need signatures to get the drawn down approved.
 - (1) Yes they will, Scott walked through the process.
 - f) Discuss commercial netting getting on top of rough fish?
 - g) Any research on electrofishing for commercial netting?
 - h) More stocking of Northerns for Clear Lake?
 - (1) Yes would like to continue to put them in and continue to watch gill net tests
 - i) What are we doing with Asian Carp now?

G. Club Projects (Jason K)

- Ice House
 - a) Another from Ice Castle. Looking to get plaque from Vetter Stone to give as well as to our other sponsors.
- Hank Meyer’s Brown Co/ NUASF MN River Canoe Access
 - a) Getting signs and such made up.

H. Willmar Studtmann Memorial Ice Fishing Contest (Mike Studtmann)

- Mike gave recap of the contest and presented David Mecklenberg with a check for the donation to the E.E. Mecklenberg Scholarship Fund.

I. High Island Lake Assn

- Banquet is nextr Saturday. Tickets \$12.50. Raffle tickets available.
- Have a hard time keeping a watershed coordinator.

J. Stoney Award

- Chad Wills and Pat Roiger nominated
 - a) Pat Roiger won

K. Other New Business:

- Orv Rannow - Need to do something with the road? Need to put something down?
- Contest tonight - hat and sweatshirt

V. V. Food for next meeting - Grill out and bring sides.

V. Meeting Adjourn @ 9:16 PM

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