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Overshadowed Bluegills

Courtesy of: <http://www.hsmoutdoors.com> by Garrett Svir Photos: Kim Svir

Fall is a time of plenty for the outdoor enthusiast. While many pass the days in tree stands waiting for a wily buck to slip up, others wait in fields for fall migrants to pass overhead. Serious walleye anglers are experiencing their best big fish bite of the year over sharp breaks and deep water. Days are devoted to spending quality time with family over a warm bowl of chili while cheering on a favorite team. Families make pilgrimages north to view fall colors or hunt grouse. The fall wish list can get pretty long but for serious panfish aficionados, the fall signals a time of large concentrations of hungry panfish in predictable patterns. Fall brings an opportunity to target some of the largest specimens in a particular body of water. You'll find that locating and catching bluegills in the fall is not much different than at first ice.



As late summer rolls around and water temperatures get high, big bluegills often evacuate shallow water leaving behind their smaller counterparts. These fish typically stay suspended on the thermocline until fall turnover. Once the water turns over, some of these large fish will return to the weeds while others stay suspended over deep water. Here they generally stay together in small schools of 10-20 fish. These sight feeders are always moving and grazing on anything that catches their eye. Bluegill's food sources include such things as algae, aquatic vegetation, zooplankton, insect larvae, insects, fish eggs and occasionally minnows. In the fall, packing on pounds for leaner times becomes a priority. Some studies show fish eating up to 35% of their body weight weekly. As water temperatures begin to drop, fish tend to stay more active during daytime hours, not limiting anglers to first and last light.

I recently had the opportunity to spend some time on one of my favorite big bluegill haunts, by none other than legendary angler Dave Genz. When I picked him up at the dock, he was armed with his trusted Vexilar FLX-28, a pocket full of euro larvae and an assortment of his favorite ice jigs. As we made our way out into the basin, familiar lines began to show up on our flashers, reminiscent of being on the ice. Dave knew how to interpret these lines very well as it only took moments before he was tussling with his first bluegill.



Genz suggested anchoring in both the front and back of the boat to keep presentations vertical and visible on electronics. Too much boat sway would bring jigs outside the view of our electronics and leave us fishing blind. He showed me a new tungsten jig that will be available later this fall, called the Dropper. The heavy tungsten allowed him to use a small profile jig that stayed vertical and dropped quickly to feeding fish.

Chad "Crappie Sniffer" Peterson, owner of HSM Outdoors, says fall is his favorite time of year to hunt big bluegills. The lakes he fishes around Alexandria, Minnesota, all have very different and distinct patterns. He relies heavily on the use of his electronics while searching out basin areas in close proximity to structure. Once fish are located, the trolling



Club Calendar

August 30th NUASF Club Meeting
September 13th NUASF Social Night at Club House

September 15thPeterman's Fishing Contest on the River
September 27th NUASF Club Meeting

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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 Kids fishing contest. Everyone did a great job!!! We had a great turnout this year with great weather. It was a great day on the river for (around 200 Happy Kids) *Thanks Again!!*

I would like to remind everyone about the **Peterman’s Fall Fishing Contest**. **The date is Saturday September 15th, starts at noon and goes until the last man is standing.** It is on the Minnesota River off of the bottom road by Hwy 4 (watch for the signs). All proceeds go to the EE Mecklenburg Scholarship. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!** (P.S. Bring a camper if you can, there is plenty of room!!!!)

Labor Day is just around the corner. Where did summer go? Please be safe while enjoying the holiday!!

Here are some important upcoming events for your calendars. The first event is the Peterman’s Fall Club Fishing Contest September 15th. NUASF Ice Fishing Contest is on February 10th 2019. The winter club fishing trip to Dixon Lake is on February 14-17, 2019.

Summer is here 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!!

motor is deployed and used to hover over suspended schools of gills. He likes the freedom to be able to move and react quickly. He also advocates keeping log books that include information like date, water temperature, clarity of water and depth which he considers invaluable to patterning and locating fish on new bodies of water.

HSM Pro Staffer, Mike Raetz, also professes to catch his largest bluegills during fall, suspended over deep water. Mike often uses his ice rods to jig vertically over the side of the boat. He likes how shorter rods keep his jig inside the cone angle and visible on his Vexilar. “One big split shot, about a foot above my jig, is all I need to maintain depth control,” says Raetz. Mike employs a single anchor off the front of the boat once fish are located.

ed. This keeps him swaying and working different fish, picking off the most aggressive ones before moving to his next location.

Fall is a busy time indeed with hunting and family but if you do find some spare time don’t forget the often overshadowed bluegills. Finding large concentrations of big bluegills in predictable locations is a great reason to enjoy some of the last open water fishing of the year. Trust me when I say... you’ll be glad you did.

HSM Outdoors is a group of anglers from around the United States and Canada dedicated to making you more successful in the field and on the water. For more information on fall bluegills visit <http://www.hsmoutdoors.com>.



426 North Minnesota Street
 New Ulm, MN 56073
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**Hook, Line,
 and Sinker**

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The NUASF Board
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NUASF Monthly Meeting July 26, 2018 Members Present: 25

I. Secretary Report - Approved as read.

II. Treasury Report - Approved as read.

III. Old Business

A. Membership Update: 150 Members, 17 Due, 0 new for total of 5.

- Looking for a new membership coordinator. Any volunteers?

B. Area Lakes and Rivers Report:

- Some guys going to long lake by St. James.
- Horseshoe chain the cats are biting.
- Seeing boats on the river.
- Lake Superior has big Walleyes coming out of the main bay. Salmon also all the way up the shore.

C. Club House & Grounds News:

- Fishing boat - replaced cables and fixed trolling motor. Need to make sure things are being brought to attention and not just leaving things broke and actually taking care of them.
- Scott Osborne mowed the last time, taking August as well. Between him and Tony M it will get done.
- Should we do a club house clean up?
- Electric line quote: Concerns from the electrician regarding erosion and wants to bore but will add cost. Thanks to Dave M for the light work on the storage sheds.

D. Other Old Business: Nothing

IV. New Business

A. Learning Center (Ron B)

- Ron gave an update on the Learning Center. Started Nature Learning Center 9 yrs ago and doing well. CCMR has backed out of sponsoring and Ron is looking for a 501 c 3 organization to sponsor the Learning Center. Motion made and approved to support and send to the board to look into with attorney and accountant to see if there are any repercussions as a result if we move forward. 2nd motion on the floor to cover the insurance was approved.

B. Bob Lessard for Attorney General (Fred F)

- Looking for support to vote for Bob in the primary election.

C. Fishing 1-2-3 Update (Scott S) –

- Final Class at Studtmann’s Pond on Thursday August 2nd @ 3:30pm, need volunteers. Call Scott S for details. (507-276-2280).

D. Ice House Tickets

- Need to be stapled together yet, will have ready for next meeting.

E. Kids Fishing Contest Update (Jim H.)

- Date: August 15th (3-7 for volunteers).
- Permits: Food? City Park? Prizes?
 - City is fine with everything proposed. Rainout day is the day after should it be needed. Food is ready; prizes to hand out are ready to go.

F. Other New Business:

- Who made popcorn last meeting; lay off the salt in the making of the popcorn.
- Need a new path to the aeration system at Clear Lake. It’s over grown and needs to be thinned out. Al and or Jason will take care of it.

V. Food for next meeting - Bring a dish to pass.

VI. Meeting Adjourn @ 8:36 PM

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