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Hook, Line, and Sinker

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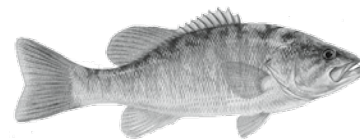
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Spring Smallmouth Bass

Courtesy of: Jeff Evans Fishing Guide

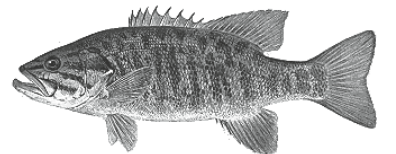
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There may be nothing more satisfying after a long winter than setting the hook into the first football sized bass St. Louis River Fishing Guidesof the season. It is just what the doctor ordered for “cabin fever”, and watching someone battle a bronzeback always puts a smile on my face. As most will tell you, “they just won’t stop fighting!” Ironically, many early bass are considered a bonus by early season anglers and are rarely targeted. Considering that they are frequently hooked accidentally by unsuspecting walleye fishermen, how can we use that information to actually catch them intentionally?

Unlike walleyes, smallmouth bass are in a completely different situation at this time of year, even though their paths are crossing. Smallies spawn when water temps reach the high 50’s. Generally, that tends to be in late May and early June. Therefore, any fish caught at this time are in “pre spawn” mode. The most effective tactic involves finding the warmest water closest to known spawning flats and shorelines. The north side of lakes and bays receives the most sun exposure, and that is exactly where you should start your search. Effectively locating smallmouth often includes a lot of visual scouting. Spawning nests from the previous year are usually still visible. Although silted in, many tire shaped nests can still be seen, and bottom composition is the key. In most lakes, smallmouth will prefer sand, gravel, and scattered rock (baseball to softball sized). Even if you only locate a few nests, you are on the right track. Now it is time to back off.

Pre-spawn smallmouth will stage on the first main break (5 to 20 ft.) adjacent to the spawning area. Retreat to this zone, and employ a 3 step approach. Extremely active fish will be cruising at or near the warmest surface water. These fish will be highly vulnerable to suspending stick baits, often striking on exaggerated delayed pauses. This is a fast and effective way to cover water as well as locate the most aggressive fish in the lake. Moderately active fish are generally suspended in the middle of the water column. A slow falling fluke or wacky rigged worm will draw the attention of these fish. Slight twitches or shakes during the fall will seal the deal. Finally, fish that are not considered active will be hugging bottom. Tried and true, this is where the tube jig earned its stripes. Probably one of the most effective smallmouth lures in history, tube jigs are impossible to resist even for the moodiest of bass. Use a natural color (my choice is usually “smoke”) matched with a 3/8 oz. head, and you are in business. Hop it, swim it, drag it.....anything goes. One thing to note, at this time of year, smallmouth are usually found in small schools or “packs”. Once a fish is hooked, continue to thoroughly fish the area. This will often result in another quick hook up. A 7 ft. medium action spinning rod and reel spooled with 8 lb. test line will serve as a great multi-purpose outfit that will adequately present everything mentioned as well as handle these incredibly athletic fish.



Club Calendar

May 31st.....NUASF Club Meeting
 June 14th NUASF Social Night at Club House
 June 28th NUASF Club Meeting


July 12th..... NUASF Social Night at Club House
 July 26th..... NUASF Club Meeting

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From the President.....

By Jason Kuester

I hope everyone had a great Fishing Opener!!!! I’m sure there will be a few stories at the next meeting about the big one that got away. So bring your stories along with your hot fishing spots and share them with your friends at the next meeting!! Your secret hot spots are safe with us!!! If you find yourself without a boat this summer the club has two that are available for our members, remember it is first come first serve.

I have great news!

We will be selling **1000 Ice Castle tickets** at \$20.00 per ticket in books of 10. Prizes are as follows, 1st Place-Ice Castle, 2nd Place-\$1,000.00, 3rd Place-\$500.00, 4th Place-\$250.00 5th Place-\$100.00, 6th Place-\$250.00, 7th Place-\$250.00

Tickets will be here by the June meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like some tickets, please contact Ross Nelson 507-766-0765 ross@groundzeromidwest.com or Ken Sutherland 507-276-1534 ken.sutherland@ci.new-ulm.mn.us or myself at 507-381-2041 jr@newulmtel.net
Note: If you take the tickets you will be responsible for selling them or turning them back in at or before the Ice Fishing Contest in February.

It’s defiantly summer like weather again and that means the grounds at the club will need to be mowed and trimmed. We are going to have a sign up sheet for mowing, please help us by signing up. Thanks in advance for your help!

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!



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



**Hook, Line,
and Sinker**

The Hook Line and Sinker is published monthly by Master Graphics for 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 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 Stuttmann 507-995-3074.

NUASF Monthly Meeting April 26, 2018 Members Present: 35

I. Secretary Report - (Mike S.) Report excepted as read.

II. Treasury Report - (Jen K.) Report excepted as read.

III. Old Business

A. Membership Update (Ken S.): 152 Members w/ 24 Due (5 this month)

- Looking for volunteer to take over the position of Membership Coordinator.

B. Area Lakes and Rivers Report:

- Kuesters reported 25” of ice on Lake Washington. Jefferson there were atv’s yet.
- Ten Mile almost 48” of ice.
- Dixon still has 38” of ice on it.

C. Club House & Grounds News:

- Tanks are full, road is soft with snow melting.
- Squeaky started the rider, Jim H to service them all.
- Boats will come out next month.
- Motion made by Ken Sutherland to get electrical work done by Zinnel Electric to bury main feed line.
- 2nd Motion: Jim Liebel.
- Orv R commented that the prop was going to get redone for the boat.
- Any river clean up or grounds clean up scheduled this spring? Not at this time given the late season and high water. Suggested when water goes down to do river clean up at the local hot spots.
- Newsletter now coming out via website, real slick.

D. Other Old Business:

IV. New Business

A. “Stoney Award” Presentation - Pat Roiger (Will be delivered to him)

B. High School Fishing Class (Jim L.)

- Good turn out for High School fishing program. 30 or so kids. Went well.
- a) Found out they repair and build fishing rods and reels.

C. Hank Meyer’s/ Brown Co./ NUASF Minnesota River Canoe Access

- Jason looking to sign the paperwork yet, has been waiting for it. Working on the signs. Water is high so waiting for it to go down to get signs out, etc.

D. Kids Fishing Contest Update (Jim H.)

- Date: Wednesday August 15th, 3pm-7pm. Looking for the usual volunteers, etc.
- Permits - Food? City Park? Prizes?
 - a) If anyone sees any prizes
 - b) Need a new pop up tent. Gave Jim permission to purchase.
 - c) Mark Dauer donates the food.

E. President’s Corner (Jason K.)

- Ice House Update
 - a) Picking up June or July, tickets by July/ August.
 - b) Going to keep tickets the same, same amount, etc as last year.
 - c) Looking for volunteers to take on the ticket sales organization.
 - d) Going to give a plaque to the sponsors.
- Prizes from Walt’s Bait for 2019 Contest
 - a) Willing to do the same deal as last year. Motion made and 2nd to approve the amount.

F. Other New Business:

- Free Membership to Friends of High Island for all their assistance. Motion and 2nd.
- Set up a facebook page? Mike S. volunteered to run it.
- Neal Haaland gave a nice donation to the EE Mecklenberg scholarship fund. Give Neal thanks.
- Scott S - Next MN River Congress Thurs May 17th @ Kato Ballroom. Motion made and 2nd for donations for the River Congress and Fishing round table.
- Friends of High Island brought prizes that were left that Scott forgot to bring. Gave an update on our fundraiser. Working on doing another draw down on the lake.
- Chad W talked to Rand Bird about canoe landing again.
- Board member position open for Mike S’s vacated spot when he moved to Secretary. Any volunteers or nominations.
 - a) Nominations - Wes L and John H. Wes Ludewig was voted in.
- Orv Rannow has shop lights available for anyone that wants them.

V. V. Food for next meeting - Grill out again, before the meeting.

V. Meeting Adjourn @ 8:31 PM

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