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Hook, Line, and Sinker

March
2020
Volume 33
Issue 3

The Official Publication of The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

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Water Quality Monitoring in Brown County

Courtesy of: Brown SWCD

In 2014, a Minnesota Statue was passed providing funds for aquatic invasive species prevention. The Brown County commissioners and the Brown Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) signed a delegation agreement that put the SWCD in charge of managing the funds. With this funding, the SWCD generates an annual Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan that incorporates education and outreach along with monitoring and prevention strategies.

This past Spring, with the help of a consultant, the SWCD developed the Brown County Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan: 2019-2023. Historical monitoring data was compiled to help determine what data gaps need to be filled with our monitoring efforts. The four waterbodies within Brown County that are included in the monitoring plan include Sleepy Eye Lake, Lake Hanska, Wellner-Hageman Reservoir, and Clear Lake. Monitoring efforts include water quality sampling, water level monitoring, secchi disc readings, carp population assessments, submerged aquatic vegetation surveys in both late spring and late summer, and annual fish population assessments (performed by the MN DNR) and will be conducted on each of the water bodies throughout the five years. The data that is collected will be used to help determine if there are any AIS present within the county, what AIS threats are present, and will help us react to any new AIS since we will have a better understanding of the health of each water body.

Many parameters are assessed with the water quality monitoring. Water samples are collected once a month throughout the summer and sent to Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories (MVTL) to determine the levels of total suspended solids, chlorophyll-a, soluble ortho-phosphorus, and total phosphorus. While on the lake, a handheld YSI meter is used to take readings of temperature, DO (%),

DO (mg/L), specific conductivity, pH, oxidation-reduction potential (ORP), and turbidity throughout the entire water column. The SWCD was able to complete five months of water quality sampling this past summer by pairing up with the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen club for the use of their boat. We are still working on compiling and analyzing all of this data.

Consultants were hired to conduct carp population surveys on both Clear Lake and Wellner-Hageman Reservoir. Common carp were found at both locations and their populations surpassed the impairment threshold. This means the population has exceeded the level at which they become damaging to the lake's ecosystem. However, each water body has very different communities. Wellner-Hageman Reservoir has a high density of mature carp, but it appears the population is being controlled by predation from the healthy native game fish population. Clear Lake, on the other hand, has a high density of young carp which suggests that the population comes from a single successful spawning event. Frequent kill events seem to be keeping most of the population under control, with only a few reproductive individuals surviving the kill events or re-populating the lake from downstream habitat. We will continue to monitor both water bodies until the end of our five-year monitoring period. Decisions about controlling the carp will be made once all of the data is compiled.

Monitoring efforts for 2020 will once again bring on new challenges and learning experiences for our team. Water quality monitoring will continue once a month throughout the summer. We can only hope that we will have as good of weather this year as we did in 2019. To remain on schedule, it is our plan to perform a Curly-leaf pondweed survey and a full submerged aquatic vegetation survey on

Water Quality continued on page 2

Club Calendar

March 26th Club Meeting Postponed till
April 30th Due to Coronavirus

April 9thNUASF Social Night at Club House
April 30thNUASF Club Meeting

May 7thNUASF Social Night at Club House
May 28thNUASF Club Meeting
June 11thNUASF Social Night at Club House
June 25thNUASF Club Meeting

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From the President.....

By Jason Kuester

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus and all crowds are regulated to 10 people we will be postponing this meeting till next month. See you on April 30th!

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 26th. The Stoney award goes to the member who has volunteered his or her time to the club, and 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: Club Grounds, and the Adopt the river Riverbank Clean Up. This is a great event for our club in preserving the cleanliness of our rivers and city. **The event will be scheduled for one Saturday in April at Riverside Park . We will be watching the weather and will send out a email before the date...** Bring gloves, rakes, shovels, trailers/pickups, and chainsaws. After we get done with the river cleanup we will head out to the club grounds. Thanks in advance for volunteering your time.

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 2020. 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....

I would also like to recognize the Studtm@n family for putting together the 11th annual Willmar Studtmann Memorial Ice Fishing contest at Studtmann Pond. We had plenty of ice this year and 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!!

Water Quality continued from page 1

one of the water bodies. The MN DNR doesn't have any of these water bodies on their fish population survey list for this year, but should get to the majority of them next year. For more information about aquatic invasive species, the Brown County Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan, or ideas of what

you would like to see us doing, please stop by the office or visit our website for our contact information. If you think that you may have found an aquatic invasive species, please take a picture, note the location, save a specimen if possible and then report to the MN DNR AIS Specialist or the Brown SWCD.



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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 - Mike Studtmann 507-766-0765; Treasurer - Ken Vonderharr 507-354-5813; Board Members: Mike Deinken 612-554-6253, Wyman Forbrook 507-420-5828, Wes Ludewig 507-276-6092.

NUASF Monthly Meeting February 27, 2020

Meeting Start Time – 7:35 PM

Members Present: 26 + 2 guests

I. Secretary Report - Approved as read

II. Treasury Report - Approved as read

III. Old Business

A. Membership Update (John H): 137 Members, 30 Due, 2 new for a total of 137.

B. Area Lakes and Rivers Report:

- Ice Fishing is fun, catching sucks.
- Dixon trip – Fishing was slow.
- 2 weeks old, but Sparlin saw pictures to prove it. Back water of river in city limits of New Ulm. 25 crappies (12"+), 3 walleyes, couple pike.

C. Club House & Grounds News:

- Plowed, dumpsters dumped, LP tank filled.
- Orm said thanks for the plowing and fish house storage will remain the same.
- Jim bought 2 battery maintainers a couple years ago, they are no longer here.

D. Other Old Business:

- Jason would like to give Wes and Tyler a Gift Cert for helping plowing clubhouse. Jason would like 3 year membership for all the plowing on lake for the contest and clubhouse.
 1. Motion made by Jim and was rescinded after discussion.
 1. Discussion – Need to make sure we're covering their costs, need to increase for more than what was proposed.
 2. Check for Tyler Linn, 3 year membership for Jason and Wes.
 1. Motion made and approved.

IV. New Business

A. High Island Fund Raiser Update

- Saturday April 4th. Details on poster.

B. Brown County SWCD (Nicole Schultz)

- Presented on Aquatic and Invasive species program for area lakes of Lake Hanska, Clear Lake, Sleepy Eye and Wellman Hageman Reservoir.
- Motion made and approved to allow SWCD to use the boat again this year.

C. DNR Fisheries Report (Scott Mackenthun)

- Clear Lake: Fish stocking. Pike of 300# in 2019. 2000 yearling Perch and adult Perch.
- High Island: 80 year old structure that washed out on end of lake. Working with the state.
- Clear (Gibbon) – Pike and Perch additions.
- 3 year Walleye tagging project on Washington, Stella, Manuela and Creel audit.
- Is there anything management wise that can be done with the small sunfish in Sleepy Eye?

D. Scott Sparlin Projects

- Thank you to club for the donation to the SMN Regional Science Fair for MNSU Water Dept.
- Water Storage initiative. CCMR and MN River Congress.

E. Jason Kuester – President's Corner

- Board Meeting Update
 1. Motion made by Scott Waldner to approve the Board Meeting budget \$ amounts, Jim Liebel 2nd.
- Website upgrade – Looking to pay to bring the website up to date and modernize it.
- 2020 NUASF Projects
- NUASF - IFC Great Job Everyone!!.

F. Quick Report from the Ice

- Fishing Contest Financial Report.

G. Willmar Studtmann Memorial Ice Fishing Contest

- March 14th 12-3pm

H. Dixon Lake Resort Club Fishing Trip Update

- Thanks to Todd and Karen.

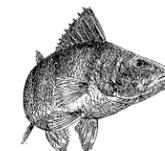
I. Other New Business

- Mats for food stand, purchase. Motion made and approved.
- Looking for 1 more board member. Volunteers to vote on: John Hunstad, Chad Wills, Dalton Demarais.
- Membership drive, looking for options.
- Alex from Boy Scouts brought to club the idea of sponsoring more merit badges. Also spoke about out fishing discussion at Runnings.

V. Food For Next Meeting: Brats and Burgers left from Ice Fishing Contest.

VI. Meeting Adjourn @ 9:26 PM

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