



Blue Water Sportfishing Association Newsletter



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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - TUESDAY,
MARCH 1, 7:00 AT MCMORRAN**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 9, 7:30 AT MCMORRAN**

MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP WILL FEATURE ANDY DONATO

Andy will show his new documentary on the Mennedosa. The Mennedosa was a large sailing vessel made in Canada, originally discovered in 1990 and then rediscovered in 2000 in 220 feet of water off Harbor Beach.

We will also hear from Gary Meyer concerning some proposed legislation on the cormorant issue. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Submitted by Bob Lane

Club Tournaments Winners

*Here are winning captains and
crews from the BWSA 2004
club tournament trail.*

*Congratulations and we wish
you good luck in 2005.*



SALMON STAKES

2005 St. Clair Salmon Stakes in up and running. The tournament will be on April 30th. The event will again be hosted by the Voyageur Restaurant. Proceeds from the event are being used to construct a fish cleaning station in the city of St. Clair.

Tickets are on sale at general membership meetings, Anderson's Pro Bait, Voyageur Restaurant, Lumberjack in Algonac, Angler Rod in St. Clair. Also, Rob Helzer and Paul Zimmer will be selling tickets. There are some really great raffle prizes. First prize is a 2-person Alaska getaway; the value of this is approximately \$10,000. In all, there are 5 great raffle prizes to be won.

Last year, there were 6 categories that anglers could win. This year, we have increased this to 7. They are Super Skipper, King, Coho, Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Steelhead, and the newly added Walleye.

Big Fish Winners

*Congratulations to all of the 2004
Big Fish Contest Winners!*





A PERSON BEHIND THE SCENES

We have a great organization to be affiliated with, but what makes it great is all the work that the active members do. Now there are the members that we all know about and see speaking at the meetings. Don't get me wrong. Those guys (including myself), do a lot for the club and are recognized in several different ways. Examples, member of the year awards and so forth. Now there are the guys that do a lot of work that nobody sees except for a few of us. I would like to write about a certain individual that has been on the board in the past, and has done many different things for this club over the years. This individual has won the captain of the year at least once if not more, was instrumental in our "Vegas Parties," held our first tournament of the year at his house and put on a great cookout for several years. He was the person in charge of us starting our main fundraiser "Fishing Forever Banquet," works getting prizes for the banquet, sells about fifty to one hundred tickets himself, works on the preparation for the banquet, and many other items to help make it a great success. This individual is also solely responsible for us still having a "Salmon Stakes" tournament. Last year the Salmon Stakes would have ended but he took it on his own to get involved and lined up the whole tournament from getting a new location, prizes, sponsors, and even setting up the committee. Most of the club members probably think that I am at the head of all these events because I do the talking and the presentations for the members, but believe me the person behind the scenes and the main guy making all this work is **Paul Zimmer**. Paul works very hard for the club but does not like to be the "up front man." But without him none of these events would have or could have been such a great success. I want to take this time to personally say thanks to you "Paul" for all the help, and remind the rest of you members to appreciate all the work that Paul and the others behind the scenes to make this such a great club to belong to.

Rob Helzer

FISHING HOTLINE

The club's fishing hotline is available with current reports. The number for it is 810-987-FISH. Joel Anderson from Anderson's Pro Bait is keeping it up-to-date with current reports.

SPRING BOAT AND FISHING SHOW

BWSA has decided to rent a space at the Birch Run Boat and Fishing Show on March 4-6. We are doing this to help promote the club, Salmon Stakes, and BW Classic tournament. There are several free seminars discussing Great Lakes Trolling. Some of the salmon speakers are John King and Jerry Bechhold who both have their own rotation flashers on the market. Charter Captains Steve Jones and Mike Pittiglio will be discussing fishing for various species on Lake St. Clair. And Mark Brumbaugh, a top competitor on the In-fisherman Professional Walleye Trail, will be discussing walleye tactics. Also, Great Lakes Angler has a \$25 seminar on Saturday from 1-4pm in which Dave Mull and Dan Keaton will be speaking. We now have enough volunteers to run the booth Friday thru Sunday. BWSA will be at booth S-36 which is in the south arena. Hope to see you there.

More information can be found at:
http://www.mssfa.com/flint/spring_show.htm

2005 Spring Salmon Classic

Your Classic committee has been working hard to put this year's tournament together. We hope with a lot of hard work by all of us that this year will prove to be an even bigger and better tournament. I am excited to be back again as director and will work hard to make this a success.

We are excited about the new, twelve fish maximum daily catch. This includes nine of one species including lake trout.

We have a new weigh-in site. It will be located at Desmond Marine on the Black River. There will be a well organized weigh-in and some great food concessions.

We are still looking for volunteers to help us. We will have a sign-up sheet at every club meeting until the tournament. We will need help at the captain's dinner, the ports, weigh-in, observers and patrol boats. You can also call me at (810) 982-4376. FISH ON!

Donna Bozyk





“YOU MIGHT BE A SALMONHEAD IF..”

- During fishing season you suddenly become very popular with your neighbors or everyone at the office who has ever tasted fresh salmon.
- You understand a language that would baffle most WWII code crackers: “...We were in 2 to 4 footers this morning in my 21 CC. Went 8 for 10, with 1 shaker. Hot rig was a LBB 22 behind a green/pearl flodger, 10 passes out over 150 FOW. Mostly 70 to 90 down on the riggers before the wire dipseys and the half-core got hot.”
- You always feel the flu coming on when the big lake is predicted to be 2' or less.
- You have 1000 spoons that cost \$4 each won't buy new shoes.
- Your first stop at any port town is the first bait/tackle store you see, even when you don't have your fishing boat with you!
- You make your daughter change her wedding date because of Manistee Pro/Am.
- You don't attend your brother-in-laws wedding due to conflict with tournament in Frankfort the same weekend.
- You set all your vacation days at work to the tournament schedule for next year.
- Can't remember kids birthdates or anniversary date, but can remember every waypoint, depth, speed and lure color from every trip last year.
- Wake your wife up in the middle of the nite yelling “FISH ON.”
- Boat payment is NEVER late.
- Wife's car needs tires and tune up, but boat runs great and trailer has new tires.
- Have latest and greatest in tackle and electronics but drive an old car to work.
- Table at home is unusable due to fishing rods laying across it along with new tackle.
- Know every fisherman by first name in your marina, but have never met your neighbors at home.

Author Unknown

2005 BOATING DATES

March 1	2005 Fishing Licenses go on Sale
March 4-6	Spring Boat & Fishing Show – Birch Run
March 31	Fishing Forever
April 1	2004 Fishing License Expires
April 30	Salmon Stakes
May 7-8	Sarnia Bay Tournament of Champions
May 14	MSSC Port Sanilac
May 20-22	Blue Water Classic
June 3-5	Grand Haven Offshore
June 10-12	GLPAA - Port Austin

HUNTING, FISHING FEE INCREASE APPROVED

The new Michigan Department of Natural Resources director has approved a \$1 hike in hunting and fishing license fees for Michigan residents.

The revised license structure for 2005 raises non-resident licenses from \$4 to \$10, said DNR spokesman Dennis Fedewa.

He said that most resident hunting and fishing licenses will increase by only \$1 when they go on sale March 1.

“These modest increases will help us to begin to address a structural deficit that currently exists in the Game and Fish Protection Fund,” said DNR Director Rebecca Humphries.

“We must take appropriate action now to ensure that we will have the necessary revenues to continue the department's primary mission to protect and promote the practice of sound wildlife management.”

The last time the DNR raised fees was in 1997. At that time, the Legislature gave the DNR director the discretion to raise the fees an additional \$2. Fedewa said that the first \$1 increase was put in place in 2001.

Cheboygan Daily Tribune

SALMON WITH TOMATO BASIL

Yields: 4 servings

- 3 Tbs. olive oil
- 4 salmon or trout fillets (8 oz. each) 1 inch thick
- 1 C. coarsely chopped onions
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbs. snipped fresh basil leaves
- 2 C. peeled and seeded chopped tomatoes
- 1/2 C. water
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper

In 10-inch skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add steaks. Fry for 2 to 4 minutes, or until golden brown, turning over once. Remove steaks from skillet. Set aside.

To same skillet, add onions. Cook for 1 to 2 minutes, or until tender-crisp. Add garlic and basil. Cook for 1 minute. Stir remaining ingredients.

Arrange steaks over tomato mixture. Reduce heat to low. Cover. Simmer for 11 to 13 minutes, or until fish is firm and opaque and just begins to flake. Serve over hot cooked linguine.



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GREAT LAKES 'LEGEND' MAKES A COMEBACK

After decades of decline, a prehistoric giant is reawakening in the deep waters of the Great Lakes.

The lake sturgeon, a fish that can grow to nearly three metres and weigh 135 kilograms, has inspired legend worthy of its size and extraordinary life.

In Algonquin mythology, a mighty sturgeon once swallowed Hiawatha. And a British author and researcher has suggested that the Loch Ness monster is really a giant sturgeon.

"They are creatures of legend," said commercial fisherman Tim Purdy. "The biggest one we've ever landed measured seven feet, nine inches and weighed 250 pounds. Biologists told us it was well over 100 years old."

Nearly wiped out by overfishing at the turn of the century, there is evidence this leviathan species, which is millions of years older than the Great Lakes and rivers that sustain it, is making a comeback.

"A lot of young sturgeon have been appearing in southern Lake Huron. I think something is changing," said Purdy, whose family has been running a commercial fishery on Lake Huron for four generations.

Next month, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which lists sturgeon as a threatened species, will begin a three-year project to see if the fish has returned to spawn on the Saginaw River in Michigan.

River dams, logging operations that scoured river bottoms and industrial pollution combined to eradicate most sturgeon spawning grounds in the U.S.

The fish is not endangered in Canada but it's nowhere nearly as plentiful as the monsters that were pulled ashore in such numbers around 1900 "that they couldn't sell them all and had to bury them in pits, my grandfather told me," said retired Port Stanley commercial fisherman Sam Vary.

The numbers continued to dwindle and bottomed out in the 1980s but are now showing signs of recovering. The St. Clair-

Detroit River corridor contains 25,000 sturgeon, the U.S. Wildlife Service estimates.

"There are tons of sturgeon in western Lake Erie, especially around the mouth of the Detroit River," said Steve Vary, Sam's son. "They're always tearing the hell out of our nets. I betcha there's a lot more sturgeon there than they can imagine."

Lloyd Mohr, a spokesman with the natural resources ministry, said the sturgeon "are probably holding their own," but he uses the word "recovery" with caution.

"We're seeing lots of small sturgeon on a regular basis," said Mohr. "Maybe we're seeing more of them because we're looking harder."

Small sturgeon are years from reaching reproductive age so it may take 50 years for these youngsters to have an impact, he said.

The typical lifespan of lake sturgeon is 55 years for males and 80 to 150 years for females. Males spawn once every two to seven years and females, beginning at 24 years of age, lay their eggs every four to nine years, resulting in only 10 to 20 per cent of the population spawning during a given year.

The lake sturgeon and its predecessors have been around for 130 million years. The fish looks like a fossil sprung to life, with a pointy mouth, jutting rows of armoured plates and a distinct shark-like tail.

Despite its intimidating look and size, the sturgeon is harmless. It has no teeth and feeds on the lake's bottom on a diet consisting of insects, crustaceans, fish and other organisms.

It may be that a recent invader of the Great Lakes has fuelled the sturgeon's return.

"The sturgeon started appearing in greater numbers just about the time the zebra mussels appeared in the Great Lakes. We noticed that the sturgeons' stomachs were full of crushed zebra-mussel shells," Purdy said.

Toronto Star