

THUNDER BAY WALLEYE CLUB NEWSLETTER

April 2012

PO Box 812 Alpena, MI 49707

Officers

President
Vice President
Finance/Recording Secretary

Jim Leeseberg
Dave Birmingham
Dennis Burns

Board of Directors

Bill O'Neil
Richard Hubert
Eric MacKenzie
Kevin Cosbitt

NEW MEETING ROOM 126

Our previous spot with the comfortable chairs

It's the large room to the right as you go in the front entrance in the BTC on the north side of Johnson St.

Jiggity, Jiggity, Here we go!!!

With such crazy weather this past winter and so far this spring, who knows what waits ahead, but one thing is for sure, the Walleyes will be there, and so will I. Hopefully some of you had the chance to cash in on some of the fantastic open water fishing that was taking place on Saginaw Bay or Lake Erie. If you hit right day the fishing was fabulous. It's hard to image enjoying a calm 70 or 80 degree day on the water in March in Michigan, but it happened several times this year. As of late, things have slowed a bit in Saginaw Bay as the spawn is in full swing, but Erie and the Detroit River is still on fire. Hopefully it continues. As for Thunder Bay, and other local fisheries, things are a bit slow as of yet. There are a few Browns and Lakers being caught in the lake, but few reports of Walleye being take so far, other than at the dam.

LAUNCH PERMITS

***Be sure to get your \$35 boat trailer launch permit at Alpena City Hall
or the Boat Harbor Marina***

A Brief 2012 Tournament Season Preview

Being that we are in fact the "Thunder Bay Walleye Club", and we do have a great fishery, this will be an exciting year with several of our events out of Thunder Bay, and one out of Rockport. With all the great fishermen in our club, I'm confident we'll continue to see some terrific catches this year.

Hubbard Lake is nothing short of a spectacular walleye fishery. With both May and September events we'll have a chance to figure out the shallow water program as well as the late summer suspended bite. Last year several boats went through dozens of walleye at both the scheduled tournaments, while the day we fished it as the alternate for Rockport proved to be a tougher bite. That was likely related to the nasty front.

To add some variety we'll once again take a trip down to AuGres where you can run North, South, or anywhere in between to find some eyes. This time of year, success often depends a lot on water temps and clarity. The fish will be there, you just have to find them.

We'll also be headed back to Long Lake where we had a dandy tournament last year. Most boats managed at least a 5 fish limit, and the fish seemed to be biting well on most of the lake. A good bite on Long Lake is all about timing, if we hit it right, it should be great. If we don't hit it right, it'll come down to patience, perseverance, and of course, as always, a bit of luck.

Most of us are also excited to be making a return visit to the Soo. This is a fantastic fishery. The diversity of the St. Mary's system allows anyone to fish to their strengths, be it jigging, bouncing, trolling, or casting cranks. This is a great getaway weekend, and if you've never been, you should certainly try to make it.

Upcoming Tournaments

Thunder Bay Night- Saturday, May 5th from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The first tournament of the year is always a great time, everyone is anxious to get on the water, which usually makes for a good showing. This one should be interesting with the warm temps we've had. Will the warm temps bring more fish into the bay earlier?? Last year the fishing was tough, with only a few five fish limits brought to scale. If you haven't already done so, get the boat ready and join the rest of us. We even shaved an hour off the old 2:00 a.m. finish time to make it easier on some of you!

Hubbard Lake –Sunday, May 20th 2012 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This should be a good one. Hubbard often has a great bite in May, as was the case last year with most boats putting a serious whooping on the Walleyes. Trolling cranks on the warmer windswept SW shoreline was a no-brainer (sorry if you chose to fish elsewhere ☺). It'll be hard to beat the numbers of fish from last year, but certainly not impossible. Weather will be a key element! We'll see everyone there!

James Farm Pond

We will run James Pond farm again this year. DNR Gaylord will install the boards the first week of April. Plan to bring the fry about April 16th. They will not use the dusty alfalfa meal this year, only the soy meal. Saginaw has been doing this for some time and it works well. Richard Hubert will store and feed again this year. He needs a small outboard motor to use for this project. If anyone has an extra to help out get in touch with Dick at 379-4614. Ask Dick about his porcupine flushing project.

Fish Cleaning

The DNR will be setting nets around the new reefs the first week in April and we will be cleaning fish. This has been an ongoing project for the club for several years. For those that are unaware we clean fish several times a year and distribute them to the local charities, primarily to the Friendship Room at St. Bernard's. Our efforts provide a thousand or so meals every year. If you would like to be part of the team call Carl Kelly at 356-4694.

Beware

*The local DNR informs me that there will be a lot more fish traps around **the new reefs** this year. Be careful in the area of the Lafarge plant. They will also be setting 24 hours per day trap nets along the **shoreline**. These will be lighted at both ends. It is an area well fished and we will have to be more careful this year.*

Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshop

You are invited to join and participate this spring in the upcoming 2012 Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops offering current research and information related to the status of our Lake Huron fishery. The Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, the USGS Great Lakes Science Center and local fishery organizations will host three regional workshops locally along Lake Huron's coastline. Topics will include updates on Lake Huron fish populations and angler catch data, resurgence of native species such as Lake Huron walleye, forage fish surveys and results from the ongoing Lake Huron predator diet study, updates of fisheries management activities, among other Lake Huron related topics of local interest. Three evening workshops, hosted across the state, are open to the public and will offer valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals and other community members interested in the Lake Huron fishery. Workshops are open to the public at no cost; however, pre-registration is requested.

April 24, 2012 (6–9 p.m.)

NOAA Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center
500 W. Fletcher St., Alpena, MI 49707

To register for any of these no-cost workshops, contact Cindy Anderson, Michigan Sea Grant/MSU Extension Iosco County Office by email: andel172@msu.edu or by phone (989) 984-1060. Workshop details are attached and also available online at www.miseagrant.umich.edu/fisheries.

Numerous public meetings are being held across the state this spring by the different management units within the DNR's Fisheries Division. These meetings are being held to discuss local and statewide fishing regulation proposals.

Northern Lake Huron Management Unit

- Thursday, April 5, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Cisler Center on the campus of Lake Superior State University, 621 West Easterday Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie.
- Thursday, April 12 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Cheboygan Sportsman's Club, 13516 Seffren Road, Cheboygan.
- **Monday, April 16, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, 500 W. Fletcher St., Alpena.**

- Thursday, April 19, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Grayling Nature Park, 100 James St., Grayling.
<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-274617--,00.html>
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Fisheries Division is holding several hearings around the State to discuss potential regulation changes concerning brook trout, muskellunge and northern pike. The attached list shows the dates and locations of each meeting. The links below will take you to the MDNR website where there is an explanation of each potential change and a link to a survey so you can provide input.

[Public Meetings...brook trout.pdf](#)

Check out Fisheries Division's [2011 Accomplishments Report](#) which highlights programs and work completed in an effort to maintain and improve Michigan's fishery.

I have a copy of the last survey on some area lakes from the DNR at the April meeting for you to review. If you would like a copy of any of these, let me know.

They are:

- Avalon Lake in Montmorency County last surveyed 2010
- Beaver Lake in Alpena County last surveyed 2010
- Fletcher Pond in Alpena/Montmorency County last surveyed 2005-2006
- Grand Lake in Presque Isle County last surveyed 2004-2005
- Hubbard Lake in Alcona County last surveyed 2006
- Long Lake in Presque Isle/Alpena County last surveyed 2004-2005
- Seven Mile Pond (Lake Winyah) in Alpena County last surveyed 2009
- Sunken Lake in Presque Isle last surveyed 2009

Survey is usually done every 10 years with some exceptions of course.

TBWC Banquet

The Club Banquet is set for April 28th at the Sportsman Club. Everybody mark your calendars. This is a fun family event, and if you haven't been to one in a while, it'd be nice to have you there. Good friends, good games, good prizes, good food, and good times. See enclosed flier for details.

Walleye Club jacket orders

If you are interested in getting a Walleye Club jacket, please give Steve Hubert a call @ 379-4614, so he can make it worthwhile to put orders together. It is really not a cost saver to order one jacket at a time. If you plan on getting one, call ahead, so he can plan for orders.

Steve will have hats, t-shirts, TBWC decals etc. at the monthly meetings for you to purchase.
All items are at club cost.

Search *tbwalleye.com* for the latest tournament results, newsletters, and blog. Todd has posted the up to date tournament results including weights, and points earned.

****- Please let Erich (I've been officially Romeo'd) know the events you are involved with by email at walleynyper@hotmail.com We'd like to promote our member's activities and accomplishments
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Andy Zbytowski Alpena

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 7:00 pm

ACC Besser Tech Center (New Room -126) it's the large room to the right as you go in the front entrance in the BTC on the north side of Johnson St.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted in the newsletter.

(Please note: If the college is closed due to weather conditions the meeting will be rescheduled)

AGENDA:

- New Business
- Banquet
- Fishing

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

Memberships can be mailed to PO Box 812 or paid at the monthly meeting for the 2012 year.

Those who get the newsletter by mail have their membership year on the front of the envelope and those who receive the newsletter by email can note their membership year by the date after their name in the *to* section of the email header. Membership dues are \$15.00 for a single membership (you alone) and \$25.00 for a family membership (all those living in the same house).

If you have questions, call Denny Burns 989 354 2419 or email at jackieodennyb@frontier.com

Annual Thunder Bay Walleye Club

Awards Banquet
Saturday, April 28th, 2012

Alpena Sportsman's Club

Agenda

Doors open at 4:30
Setups will be provided
BYOB
Games/Appetizers 5:00 - 7:00
Dinner at 7:00
Awards to follow dinner

Door Prizes!

Games! (for kids too)
Women's Baskets!

Raffles!

Dinner

By

Diane Laseck

Hors D'oeuvres, Dinner, Turkey Breast and Gravy, Honey Ham, Mashed Potato, Buttered Corn, Gr. Beans, Hot Rolls, Salad, and Desserts, Coconut Cream and Apple Pies, Carrot and Chocolate Cream Cakes.

Dinner is \$15.00 per person at the door.
12 and under are free.

***Please RSVP by Monday, April 23rd, your name and how many adults and under 12 will attend to Dennis Burns at 989 354-2419 and leave a message or email to jackieodennyb@frontier.com. You do not have to be a member to participate. Please note that we will have to have an accurate # when you RSVP. We will not be able to accept ANY last minute attendees at the door for dinner.