

Thunder Bay Walleye Club

Newsletter

May, 2009

P.O. Box 812 Alpena, MI 49707

Officers		Board of Directors
President	Jim Leeseberg	Bill O'Neil
Vice President	Dave Birmingham	Richard Hubert
Finance/Recording Secretary	Dennis Burns	Eric MacKenzie
		Kevin Cosbitt

SPEAKER

JIM JOHNSON, DNR BIOLOGIST- ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Jim Johnson, Alpena DNR fisheries, will speak at the May meeting on the proposed artificial reefs to be installed in Thunder Bay. The proposal is a projected 5 million dollar venture to be funded by stimulus dollars. The project should enhance natural Walleye and Lake trout spawning, and Jim add some information on Walleye status and projections based on last year's data.

- ***Annual Club Banquet- April 24, 2009***

We held our annual banquet at the Civic Center, which seemed to meet all of our needs. We have to discuss how it rated in terms of cost and preparation with Kevin and crew that prepared the evening. We appeared to have a great turnout and wished that Kevin would have been able to join us; however, after Dave took a fall, it was probably better that you stayed clear Kevin. You did a great job at organizing the event with the help of Dill, Dave, Jim, Denny, and Jackie. The meal was great and everyone seemed to have a great time throughout the night. It moved along nicely and there was ample space for everyone present. We will have to do a survey over the next couple meetings to get a feel for next year. The night ended with the changing of the Angler of the Year which was Steve Hubert turning over his title to this year's winners, Erich Carlson and Wayne VanDyke, both of whom thanked their wives for tolerating them all throughout the season. It was a great way to start the year with the opener being the next day or night for those that headed out for midnight.

- ***DNR Fish Cleaning***

We will start our annual fish-cleaning project the first week in May. For those who are not aware, we receive survey fish from the DNR, clean them, and give them to the Friendship Room for meals. We usually work Tuesdays through Fridays, one or two times a week, for about 3-4 weeks. It is almost always at 4:00 P.M., at the fish cleaning station. We have two teams that alternate and if anyone is interested in helping, call Carl Kelly at 356-4694.

**** Club News ****

- ***What are the Fish Eating in the Bay?***

At the recent fisheries seminar, held at the Eagles club, a Jeff Schaeffer, United States Geographical Survey (USGS), spoke on the need of fishermen to get involved in some research. They are asking that Walleye Club members collect stomachs from ALL fish caught in Lake Huron. Carl Kelly will have more details at the meeting along with pre-packaged collection bags and instructions. If you are interested in learning more, you can get additional information from Jeff at Jschaeffe@usgs.gov.

- **Walleye Club Clothing**

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 etc. at the monthly meetings for you to purchase. The Club ordered 36 Hanes fleece pullover-hooded sweatshirts in various colors and sizes for \$25.00.

- **TBWC Web Site**

You can access the new web page at www.tbwalleye.com. Todd already put some information out there for us and would gladly take any additional information that you might have such as pictures or news. The sight is under development at this point. You should take a minute and see what it looks like and give us some input on what you would like to see on the web sight. If you have any pictures to add, you can do so on the web site or by contacting Todd through the web site.

- **35th Annual Michigan Brown Trout Festival Kick Off Dinner**

The 2009 Brown Trout kick off dinner was held Saturday April 18th at the Civic Center with a good number of people attending a nice meal and having an opportunity to bid on various items by silent auction, live auction, Chinese raffle. Some items included beautiful wildlife prints, guns, fishing equipment, clothing, hand made furniture.

This year it was decided at the TBWC April meeting to return to awarding a free membership to those who volunteer more than 5 hours over the 10 day period of the Brown Trout Festival at the boat harbor. I will be at the BT May meeting and may have some detail on the clubs work schedule for 2009 by our meeting this month.

- **Big Bite Baits**

We will have product available at the May meeting (John promised) for those that have an interest in trying the baits that John discussed at the February meeting. Romeo will have it available at all meetings and those interested in getting it outside meeting times will need to make arrangements with him. You can contact him for more detail at 989-356-1703. John reports that he will be sending jigs, biobait, the new crank baits; but he has not taken shipment of the crawlers at this time but will send the finesse baits that he showed at the meeting and used last season. I will not be at the meeting due to work commitments and will enlist someone's assistance (Gregg you have been chosen) to get the material there. I will have everything priced and will be able to sell it before and after the meeting. You can also give me a call if you are not able to make it. I will also keep some with me at the tournaments and when I go fishing.

Fishing Partners-

We may want to review this and see if there is any interest in listing club members looking for tournament partners to share the costs. If you are interested, please email Romeo

Denny received an inquiry into a club membership from an Ohio resident who is retiring in 2010 and has purchased a home in the Alpena. He will be in our area over the nite eyes tournament weekend and would like to catch a ride fishing and sharing in the cost. Can anyone help, here are his emails....

Dear Thunder Bay Walleye Club, My name is Jim Redd, and I am from NW Ohio (don't hold that against me). My wife and I purchased a retirement home recently in Alpena, and can only spend vacation and weekend time there presently. I love to fish, and would like to join your organization. Please forward that information to me, so that I may it to you. I am planning to retire in 2010, and am willing to volunteer for the organization's activities. Also, I would like to fish in you 5/30 and 5/31 tournament, but will not have a boat available. Can I "hitch a ride" for the tournament? Thank you for your help. Regards, Jim.

Thanks so much for responding, and thanks for sending out the info. and ride request. My cell # is 419-551-2950, email is arc_ms_jr@nwoca.org and I'm more than willing to help pay for boat gas. Thanks again, and I look forward to meeting you sometime in the near future. Regards, Jim

Lake Huron, May 2, 2009

Well, the first tournament is history, and we had a great turn out with 44 people participating. The fish had just left the river following the spawn which left the typical hot spots following the patterns from years past such as the break wall, the river mouth, the river, Grass Island, the Big Reef, North Shore, The Humps, Abitibi Reef, and Lafarge all of which produced fish but mainly small males for those that spent time pre fishing. The key to the top three was to follow the warm water, which was pushed over to the North Shore where the Huberts, Harrison, and VanDyke were able to locate nice fish. While pre fishing earlier in the week Pam pulled a 10#+, 32" female that will be visiting the monthly meeting after it finishes up at the taxidermist- nice job Pam. The Huberts started at The Humps and made their way down North Shore pulling 18's and Husky Jerks pulling 10+ fish throughout the night. They netted a total \$657 for first place with 17.60 pounds and claim the lead for Angler of the Year. Second place (16.43 pounds) was taken by Don Harrison, Al Weasel Douglas, and Larry Donajowski Jr. who boated 14 fish from White Fish Point to the Humps using 18's and Rattling Rogues. They started the night at the Big Reef, headed to Sulfur, and then to North Shore before dark. Third place, with 13.68 pounds, went to Wayne VanDyke and Erich Carlson who boated 5 fish at North Shore and The Humps with 18's and Husky Jerks. The key for fishing that evening was the water temperature, which was nearly six degrees warmer on the North Shore in comparison to the other side with 47 degrees. Many teams also pulled fish all over the bay but none had the size that the top teams found. Thanks to those that helped with the weigh in since Kevin is out for a few tournaments- Dill and Richard ran the scales like the pros they are- thanks guys; remember, if at all possible, get your money turned in as quickly as possible, so the group can get started to speed the weigh in up for everyone.

- ***Club Memberships***

This will be the last call for the 2009 club memberships so please make sure to do it as quickly as possible by mailing your dues or paying at this month's meeting. If you have a 8 under your address on the newsletter envelope or have a 2008 after your name in the sent to on your email, your memberships are due. Membership is required to fish tournaments more than one time. A current member must be in the boat for non members to fish.

Upcoming Activities –

1. Jim Johnson, DNR Biologist- Speaker
2. Tournament on Long Lake May 17th
3. Night Eyes May 29 and 30
4. Tournament on Lake Wyniah above the 7 mi. dam June 7th

**** Other Information ****

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ben Skiba no address, no phone

Kevin Lundquist no address, no phone

Not in the phone book....does anyone know these 2 people?

Greg Hart

Lincoln

Fred Sterns

Alpena

Don Dowling

Alpena

Rotary Club Winner

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

- **Besser Tech Room** - Room 112 in the BTC
- Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month

AGENDA:

- Old Business
 - Club banquet
 - Banquet
 - Dock update
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- New Business
 - Recap of May 2nd tournament
 - Night Eyes preparation