

# Thunder Bay Walleye Club Newsletter

May 2015

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  
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### Things are looking up!

Last year opening week on the Thunder Bay River was AMAZING, so much so that if you weren't much of a jig fisherman, you became one quite quickly. If you didn't, you wish you had! Last years opener agreeably spawned the idea of having an opening weekend tournament where those who wished, could capitalize on the jig bite in the river. Most years, at least the first few days in the river will produce well, that was not to be the case. Last weekend's opening tournament for the 2015 season was a "slow go" to say the least. With expectations quite high after last years fantastic opening week the majority of the teams laid frustrating goose eggs. While it's sometimes tough to bounce back with a lot of enthusiasm after a tough bite you can be rest assured that the Hubbard Lake bite will be on! There are lots of great reliable reports coming from all over the lake and some very nice fish being caught as well. It does however seem that as usual this time of year, it's a bit difficult to get the fish snapping much before the sun hits the horizon, so patience is going to be your friend if you make the tournament Saturday night. The weather is looking to be fantastic, so get the kinks out, and come join us on Hubbard Lake! There will be fish!

### Club Tournaments - Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> Thunder Bay River and Lake Huron

40 contestants were on the water for the first tourney of the year.

Fishing conditions were somewhat cool and windy from noon to 3pm during the tournament.

Not bad but as you know when you are catching weather conditions seem to disappear. Slow catch to no catch was the rule. A few boats plied the bay with no results.

1<sup>st</sup> place was Eric Kurczynski, Ben Skiba and Nick Gabara boating 3 legal fish for a total weight of 8.08#

Trolling crawler harnesses with a bottom bouncer. Team Eric also took the largest fish pot with a nice 4.29 pounder.

2<sup>nd</sup> place goes to Bryan Kozlowski with his son James (16 and under) and Steven Papinue jigging 2 legal fish for a total weight 4.92#.

3<sup>rd</sup> goes to Chris and Scott Wade with Adam Peterson jigging up river netting 4.52#.

Considering the day an honorable mention should go to the only 2 other teams who caught fish. They are Carl Hatala with Bill Brado with one fish weighing 3.19# and Jon Kruttlin and Bryan Lapine with one fish weighing 1.52#.

It is not the size of the fish, but the success of those who put something in the boat and of course those who did not give up. Photos attached.

***It has been reported one team was noticed fishing 8 lines. While they did not weigh in this a violation of our rules. Be reminded six lines are the max anyone can use during tournament hours, all other rules apply.***

The next tournament is Hubbard Lake Saturday night May 2<sup>nd</sup> 6P-2A launch DNR East Bay. Last year 41 contestants fished with 15.20# to 6.90# at the weigh station. All teams weighing fish brought 5 fish to the scale, two teams chose not to weigh.

This year it looks like it will be a blue bird night with a nearly full moon and mild temperatures at 61 degrees and wind at SE 6 mph at the start and ending with temps around 49 degrees with wind out of the SW at 3 mph, partly cloudy all night with no chance of rain. Go get em.

*Changes to rules cause unforeseen problems down the road.*

*To simply say at meetings lets do this or that sets of a series of changes that were not evident at the time.*

*So we have another revision of the TBWC Rules moving the 16 and under into the mix.*

**TOURNAMENTS**  
Schedule and new rules for 2015  
**UPDATED APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**  
**TBWC Club Fishing Tournaments**

<u>Location:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
1 Thunder Bay River/Lk. Huron – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor	Sun April 26 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
*2 Hubbard Lake – Launch DNR East Bay	Sat May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>6PM – 2AM</b>
3 Saginaw Bay - Launch AuGres DNR	Sun May 17 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
*4 Long Lake - Launch Long Lake Park	Sun May 31 <sup>st</sup>	7AM – 3PM
5 “Nite – Eyes” – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor ( <b>Public</b> )	Fri & Sat June 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6PM – 1AM</b>
6 Mullet Lake – Launch DNR North End	Sun June 21 <sup>st</sup>	7AM – 3PM
TBWC Veterans Tournament – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor	Sun June 28 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – <b>1PM</b>
7 Thunder Bay – Launch Alpena Boat Harbor	Sun July 12 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
MI. Brown Trout Walleye Tournament – Launch Alp. Boat Harbor	Sat & Sun July 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	6AM – 3PM
8 Rockport –Launch Rockport, Alternate Grand Lake	Sun August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7AM – 3PM
*9 Grand Lake - Launch South DNR	Sun August 16 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM
10 Mullet Lake – Launch ALOHA State Park	Sun September 13 <sup>th</sup>	7AM – 3PM

TBWC Veterans Tournament and MI. Brown Trout Walleye Tournament are non-point tournaments.

**RULE CHANGES AGAIN**

*There is some confusion on the 16 and under contestants.*

*We want to make this clear.*

*If you still have questions, call Denny Burns 989 354 2419*

**16 and under may fish more than one time. Membership is not required. Entry fee is not required if they are the third or more person in the boat. 16 and under do not need to be a family member.**

*If the 16 and under is one of only 2 people in the boat, the entry fee for that person must be paid.*

You must sign up everyone in the boat **including those 16 and under PRIOR** launching.

16 and under **are** eligible for tourney contestant prize drawings at the annual TBWC Banquet.

Entry fee is **\$25.00** for each participant **except those 16 and under who are the third person or more in the boat.**

There is no longer a voluntary bonus. Nearly all contestant signed up for the bonus during all previous years. The \$25 entry fee will increase all places paid during TBWC POINT tournaments. **A \$100.00 bonus will be paid for the largest walleye prior to the 20% withholding for each point tournament.**

**A \$500.00 bonus will be paid for 3 fish total weight over 10# for tournaments 2 or 4 or 9, additional rules apply.**

## **DNR**

The Chinook is on the water for the last year.

We cleaned 7 buckets of fish Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup>. Thankfully the city opened the cleaning station at the boat harbor to get all fish cleaned. If we had to use the DNR research station it would have taken us until midnight. Very limited space and a grinder that should be at the museum. There was about 75 lbs. of lake trout fillets delivered to the St. Bernards soup kitchen. More info at the May meeting.

There are fry nets out on the new reef and other areas in front of the cement plant. If you are fishing in the bay, be aware that they are in place and avoid those spots.

The DNR put 300,000 walleye fry into the James Farm Pond April 16<sup>th</sup> and should be ready for harvest around the middle of June. Per Richard Hubert everything went well for this years fill at the pond. Don't have the problem of lady bugs filling up the control panel any longer as a few moth balls in the panel keeps them out there.

## **Brown Trout**

BT did get their issues with the Michigan Charitable Gaming Division resolved and their raffle tickets are printed.

The TBWC is also under requalification with the Michigan Charitable Gaming Division. The last time this happened was 3 years ago and there was no way were going to get a raffle license unless we were associated with another organization that they would OK. Their choice was the MUCC. This was too expensive for the club and would have cost us around \$1,000 per year which is about our average profit from raffle events. I am exploring other avenues and hopefully we can also get this resolved.

### **April meeting notes**

Meeting called to order 7:07  
Jim Leeseberg presided.

Financials and the previous month's minutes were read.

Glen Klimczak gave us an update on BT and had a sample of the BT flier to review.

Brown Trout needs an announcer to MC the walleye tourney. Need someone who will get involved with the tourney contestants at weigh-in. Carl Hatala is working on major sponsor for the tourney.

Ed Retherford said Carl did a good job getting the info out at the Grand Rapids Boat Show.

23,000 Steelhead planted in the Thunder Bay River.

Cormorant control will start soon.

Atlantic salmon will be ready at the end of April, should be about 30,000 to 40,000

Richard Hubert moved to give \$500.00 towards cormorant control, seconded by Dave Golder, motion carried. Looks like the limit on Saginaw Bay may be changed as well as size.

Jim LaFluer made a motion for a raffle with those member who cleaned DNR fish sampling last year for a new electric knife or a \$50 gift card, seconded by Richard Hubert, motion passed. Jim LaFluer was the winner. Need help with DNR fish cleaning this year. Call Jim LaFluer 356 2421.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 or so.

**CLUB MEMBERSHIPS CAN BE PAID NOW.**

**Single person membership is \$15.00 per year. Family membership is \$25.00 includes all persons living in your household.**

**If you don't know if your memberships are due contact Denny Burns at 989 354 2419 or see me at a meeting.**

**Email members have the membership year after their last name on emails sent by Denny Burns including the newsletter.**

**Regular mailed member's membership year is on the envelope.**

**Make checks out to TBWC.**

**TBWC THINGS GOING ON  
TBWC HUBBARD LAKE TOURNEY MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**KIDS FISHING CLINIC & DERBY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>  
AT LAFARGE PAXTON QUARRY ON M-32**

**TBWC VETERANS TOURNEY SUNDAY JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**SOME TBWC HISTORY  
The TBWC at Twenty Five Years old,  
By Mike McGirr**

**JAMES FARM WALLEYE REARING POND**

Contact was made by Dave Birmingham and Mike McGirr with the DNR Gaylord inland fisheries manager and a meeting was held at the DNR building on M32. TBWC's help was offered and the DNR responded that they could use help managing the James Farm Pond. It was filled then with a diesel tractor and pump that took over a week to fill. The DNR would have their men drive from Gaylord every day to run the tractor/pump and then return home. Our club volunteered to run it at night so the pond would fill faster and it would save the DNR personnel many unproductive hours on the road. After a few years of that type of filling they mentioned that they had a pump and would pay for a power line to come the last 1/4 mile, if we could figure how to use the pump. One of our club members said he had access to a large 6' by 20' oil tank that we could get for free. Dan LaCross contacted Presque Isle Corporation and they donated the 12 inch pipe we needed for the inlet from the river and the 6 inch pipe for the outlet to the pond. Plans were made, the date was set and the DNR came with a large contractor size back hoe to dig the hole to place the tank on end in the ground and trenches for the piping. Members of the club placed the pipes, Bill Fetter a retired electrician that belonged to the club, did the electrical installation and with the flip of a switch we had water flowing from the river into the pond. Time filling was reduced from 7 days to about 3 days and no one had to be there to monitor the tractor. After the new pump installation our club would be contacted by the DNR when the boards to the dam were installed and the pump was started by the TBWC. All they had to do then was wait until we notified them that the pond was full and ready for the fry to be planted in the pond.

Every year since we were formed, we have had club volunteers on hand to harvest the Walleyes when they grew to a sufficient size. Initially we had to scoop up the Walleyes with nets as they flowed through the Wolf trap placed between the pond dam and the river as the water was lowered. It was very labor intensive taking 2-3 8 hr. days during this process and the DNR really appreciated our help. 10 to 15 members would show up to harvest and weigh the Walleyes into the DNR truck to be planted in various lakes and rivers in

the northern Lower Peninsula as well as Lake Huron. They are now chased with chemicals into trap nets strung along the shoreline of the pond which reduced harvest time to about 3 hours each day.

We still help, but as a further bonus for the DNR and the members that show up, we host a Walleye lunch. Steve Hubert cooks walleye of course and Pam Hubert supplies the salads that make the lunch a success. Carl Kelly still mows the area of operation. Every year I notice more DNR people showing up and I have a suspicion that word has gotten around what a great lunch that they provide. Because of this pond and our help, every year 100 to 200 thousand Walleyes are planted in the surrounding area. It could be that some of the fish we have for that lunch came from the Walleyes we harvested 3 or 4 years earlier!

**TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH**

**HELP US**

**TAKE A FEW MINUTES**

**We need info for the Newsletter!**

Please consider contributing to the newsletter! Do you have a fishing or hunting story **OR ANY STORY** that is worthy of sharing? Do you have any fantastic pictures to share? Do you have an awesome recipe that you are willing to share? It doesn't necessarily have to be about fish. It would certainly make the newsletter more interesting. If you have something you'd like to share please send it to Erich Carlson's e-mail: [walleynyper@hotmail.com](mailto:walleynyper@hotmail.com). I'll be sure it gets in! The author can remain anonymous if you so desire, just indicate your preference when submitting something to Erich Carlson. 595-3295 or 464-5623

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**Electric Motor, Canvas, and Downrigger Repair**

**If you are in need of work on your Minnkota, need canvas work, or your Cannon Downriggers Serviced get ahold of Brad Valley @ Valley's Dockside Canvas**

**Services and repairs all Minnkota products including Cannon Downriggers. 989-464-1191**

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Most of you already know that TBWC member Greg Trelfa is a great mechanic. Why order from the big stores when Greg now has access to a full line of marine parts and accessories for all the major brands like Johnson, Evenrude, Mercury, Yamaha and more! He can also supply you with the latest in electronics from Lowrance and Hummingbird, and does professional high end installations as well. His kind of personal service is hard to come by, so if you are looking to upgrade some electronics or need some repairs or maintenance done and want it done right at very competitive prices, give Greg a call @ 595-3149.

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**Boat & RV Fiberglass repair--** Mid Michigan Fiberglass Inc. Owner Steve Schnettler, 1809 27th St. Bay City Michigan 989-895-7000 [www.midmichiganfiberglass.com](http://www.midmichiganfiberglass.com) Factory Authorized.

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**FOR SALE**

Strikemaster Mag 2000 gas Ice Auger - like new, only used about 5 times - haven't used it in about 4 years due to health issues. Auger, blade cover and Cabela's travel bag - \$300. I did start this to make sure it still ran last year - fired up after about 5 pulls after sitting for 3 years.

Summit Titan treestand (climber) - brand new, still in the box. Ordered new in 2011, has never been opened. Bottom of box is a little rough from sitting for 3+ years - \$200

Call Mike Mc Court 358-1595.

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1996 Sea Nymph deep V with a 40 horse electric start and electric tilt trim tiller Johnson motor. It has fish on rod holders and a new Lowrance graph. Boat also has a new 45 pound 24 volt bow mount. Asking \$4750. ~~SOLD Also have a 2008 mercury four stroke 9.9 long shaft tiller motor. Less than 30 hours on it. Asking \$1700.~~ Contact Eric MacKenzie boomer2410@hotmail.com or 989 657 0079.

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**NEW**

I have an older model 15 H.P. Mercury, 2 stroke, long shaft, electric start, all steering cables, in very good condition. It has been checked out by Greg Trelfa a couple of years ago and I will have it checked again to your satisfaction. It has not been on a boat for at least 10 years. Greg says \$950. Carl Kelly 356-4694.  
<[ckelly2290@gmail.com](mailto:ckelly2290@gmail.com)>

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## **MEW MEMBERS**

Mike Cohoon            Alpena

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday May 13th, 7pm 2015**

### **MEETING ROOM 126**

**ACC Besser Tech Center (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 or cancelled)**

#### **Agenda:**

Club Tourneys

    TB River/Lake Huron

    Presentation for TBWC funds for the Catherine V BY Mike McGirr

    Hubbard Lake

    Review 16&under rules, 6 lines

TBWC Veterans Fishing Tourney

Brown Trout

Kids Fishing Derby