

# Thunder Bay Walleye Club Newsletter

June 2015

PO Box 812 Alpena, MI 49707

## Officers

**President** Jim Leeseberg  
**Vice President** Dave Birmingham  
**Financial/Recording Sec** Dennis Burns

## Board of Directors

Bill O'Neil  
Richard Hubert  
Eric MacKenzie  
Kevin Cosbitt

## Club Tournament Results

### Hubbard Lake Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 6P - 2A

Hubbard Lake recap: The TBWC had their second event of 2015 on Hubbard Lake the first Saturday in May. There was a great turn out, and while there were a lot of fish caught, it wasn't a big fish slug fest by any means. In the days prior to the event, there were many twenty plus inch fish being caught, and many of us had anticipated that it would have taken 13 to 15 pounds to win. For whatever reason, that was not to be the case. Fish were taken from all over the lake, but the big girls remained elusive other than Jon Kruttlin's 24 inch kicker that was key for the win. With the water being quite calm, several guys also reported spotlighting the shallows and seeing many areas lit up like a Christmas tree with eyeballs! Nonetheless, it was a good, successful event with nice weather and lots of Walleyes. Sometimes we forget how blessed we are to have so many fantastic fishing opportunities so close by, and Hubbard is no exception.

What a night. Weather was Blue Bird, little wind, warm with fish for those who knew where to find them. 51 entrants put lines in the water. Team Brian McNeil, Jon Kruttlin and Bryan LaPine weighed 5 fish for first place with 11.12 Lbs. and the largest of the night at 4.01 Lbs. Jeremy Phillips, Cody Sylvester and Chris Wade were a very close 2<sup>nd</sup> logging in 10.79 Lbs. Their largest was 2.72 Lbs. Alisha, Dan and Logan Bouchard also took a very close 3<sup>rd</sup> with 10.63 Lbs. It has to be mentioned that 4<sup>th</sup> place had 10.52 Lbs. with the largest at 3.18 Lbs., 5<sup>th</sup> place had 10.48 Lbs. and their largest 2.76 Lbs., and 6<sup>th</sup> place had 10.22 Lbs. fishing alone and his largest 2.59 Lbs.

### Saginaw Bay Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> 7A - 3P

Another what a day but not for the same reason. We were promised fish jumping in the boat in great numbers in shallow water to 15'. Jackie and I went down early Saturday morning and were met with fog, dense fog, light east wind and a sense of diminished hope. We launched and went out the promised water and fished until about noon and didn't see, well you couldn't see, or catch a fish so we headed for other places via the GPS very cautiously. Arriving on the Charity Island area the sun came out, great now we could see, and revealed on the west side a crystal clear water column to 30'. Traveled around to the east side of the big island and found some turbid water and started fishing again. Planer board back, hard, great, the mother or father of all walleye and no one was around to see this happening. Well after a good battle we netted a 5# plus small mouth. After 6 or so of same weight class we decided it was time for

lunch...a long lunch. OK, checking out other locations with no one else around we headed back to the west side of the bay and had an idea of going deeper into the bay but were met with the same no seeum conditions so we called it a day.

After talking with some of the other people, we found out the jump in the boat bite stopped about 4 or 6 days ago and it was decided to go south in the morning to at least catch something for the weigh in. Catches were legal at best but at least walleye were there.

Sunday morning all were met with the same conditions, maybe a little worse. Again wind was low, temp was good so we fished the front of the launch area as 15 or so boats were in the area. No luck, so head south. To make this short, after losing tackle in two nets, lotsa nets in the area, we decided to go back to the area where we knew no nets were around and fish a little deeper water. About 1PM the sun came out and we started catching fish. Boated 4 fish for 8 lbs. and ran out of time.

First place went to Rob Demeto, Bryan Kozlowski and Dustin Neubacker weighing 15.83#. Second went to Jim Hall, Mike Karner and Chris Mulvahill with 13.01# and third goes to Tony Gapczynski and Chris Wade tipping the scale at 12.30#. Largest fish goes to team Don Berry, Todd Kruger and Mike McCourt at 4.57#. Not a typical Saginaw Bay.

50 people fished with 30 weighing 5 fish, 2 weighing 4, 3 weighing 3 fish and 4 weighing 2 fish. Some had fish but did not weigh.

**Long Lake Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> 7A - 3P**

WOW, what a change in local weather. A heavy cold front came thru and Sunday was cold, windy out of the north but sunny. So cold Jackie and I decided not to go figuring with the heavy cold front and crappy conditions Sunday and prefishing Friday no luck trying different things and areas. Seemed like a lot of good excuses.

Well now 39 contestants showed up and all weighed except 4 people.

<b>2015 Thunder Bay Walleye Club</b>		
<b>Top 10 of 102 Entrants Best 5 of 4 out of 10 Tournaments</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Rank</b>
	<b>Best 5 of 10</b>	
Gabara, Nick	353.02	1
Kruczynski, Eric	353.02	1
Wade, Chris	308.98	2
Skiba, Ben	264.03	3
Kruczynski, Gage	253.02	4
Franklin, Matt	247.62	5
VanMassenhove, Dan	247.62	5
VanMassenhove, Gary	247.62	5
Birk, Adam	246.80	6
Kozlowski, Bryan	240.04	7
Gapczynski, Tony	213.50	8
Gagnon, Scott	203.93	9
Karner, Mike	196.90	10
Mulvahill, Chris	196.90	10



First went to Matt Franklin, Eric MacKenzie, Dan and Gary VanMassenhove bringing 9.45 # to the scale, largest 2.52# *along with this very hungry bass.* Second goes to Adam Birk and Marc McCaleb 8.72# and third place goes to Benalli and Nick Gabara, Eric and Gage Kruczynski with 8.41#. This boat had 2 entrants under 16 on board, well under 16. Made me feel like a wimp. Largest fish went to Mike Karner and Chris Mulvahill with a nice 2.75#.

It's almost Nite Eyes time! While this year has been much nicer than last, the fishing has still been a touch slow to get started, but there are definitely fish being caught in the bay right now. It really seems that for the last several years our "GOOD" fishing doesn't really kick off until the first of June. That seems to have held true this year as well. We've been seeing and hearing of a few good "boat" limits coming in off and on, and as most of you know, the fish come and go with the wind. That being said, fishing in the bay will just continue to improve over the next several weeks.

### **Who's doing what?**

There always seems to be some interest in keeping an eye on some of our TBWC Members as they fish some big walleye events around the state and country. Carl Hatala and Bill Brado are fishing the inaugural season of the AIM Great Lakes circuit and will be fishing the AIM Weekend Walleye Series event on Saginaw bay this Sunday, June 6th. Wayne Van Dyke and Erich Carlson are teamed up again for some MWC, MWT and WWC events. Wayne (He's an ANIMAL!) also has kept his hat in the ring and is fishing the full NWT circuit, most recently cashing a nice check in Lake City on the Mississippi River. It's exciting to keep track of watch these weigh in on line, and is a cool way to keep track of what's going on in the tournament Walleye world. The guys also really appreciate the support. Watch next weekend also as Wayne fishes the NWT at Leech Lake MN on June 12th and 13th. Follow him on the live leaderboard at [www.nationalwalleyetour.com](http://www.nationalwalleyetour.com) if you want to really get ahead of the learning curve and become a much more well-rounded walleye fisherman, consider getting into an event or two. If you are observant, watch and listen carefully you'll be amazed at the variety of techniques and approaches that people often use to put fish in the boat. Look for the dates of tournaments to follow in the coming months. Good Luck Gentlemen!

### **DNR**

Has been doing their thing sampling fish. Since our last newsletter they were in northern Lake Huron around Cedarville area, locally off Rockport and Harrisville.

The club cleaned fish for the St. Bernard Friendship Room two times. Received a note from Randy McCauley, director, as follows.

*"A note of sincere thanks for all you do for St. Bernards Friendship Room. The local fish offers a healthy, tasty meal entrée' that most of the meal guests would otherwise not be able to enjoy. On behalf of the staff, the Board of Directors and myself, we applaud your generosity, resources and time to fight hunger in our community".*

## **James Farm Pond**

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 is going well. More feed was delivered for Richard and Gary Hubert to feed the little buggers. Fish size has been checked and could be ready for harvest soon.

## **Brown Trout**

No schedule for the TBWC from BT yet. We do have the raffle tickets in hand and plan a special mailing to membership to explain options for the tickets. If you receive the special mailing, please act on them ASAP. The TBWC paid for these and the sales are TBWC money.

## **May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting notes**

Meeting called to order 7:11

Dave Birmingham presided.

Financials and the previous month's minutes were read.

Ed Retherford said the limit and size for walleye on Saginaw Bay is going to change possibly for next year.

Atlantic Salmon were planted and stayed around for 9 days before leaving.

Discussion on BT raffle tickets sales.

7 mile dock on the Thunder Bay River was in need of repair. Denny Burns and Mike McGirr went to check it out and met with the dam people. They are going to take care of what needs to be done to the dock and ramp.

Dave Birmingham suggested we get more young membership, speakers and workshops.

Mike McGirr gave a presentation on TBWC help to save the Catherine V. Tabled for our June meeting.

Pam Hubert requested funds for the Hooked for Life Fishing we have supported in the past. Ed Retherford motion for \$300.00 Todd Kruger seconded, motion passed.

Glen Klimczak has BT raffle tickets and will be mailing out to members.

Meeting adjourned 8:07 Dave Birmingham went fishing.

## ***LAST CALL***

### **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.**

## **THINGS GOING ON**

NITE EYES JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> & 13<sup>TH</sup>

KIDS FISHING CLINIC & DERBY JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>

LAFARGE PAXTON QUARRY ON M-32 West

They need people help for this so if you can spare some time Saturday call Cherokee Girard at [girardc@amaesd.org](mailto:girardc@amaesd.org) or 989 884 3155 to see what's needed.

It's great seeing the faces of these kids catching their first fish ever. Don't miss out.

TBWC Mullet Lake June Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 7A-3P

This has been a fun tourney the last 2 years. Always catch fish.

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

### **SOME TBWC HISTORY**

**The TBWC at Twenty Five Years old,**

**By Mike McGirr**

### **OTHER CLUB ACTIVITIES**

Since those early years the TBWC has become involved in many other community projects that are fishing related. We built the fishing platform on the Island Mill, provided and installed the dock above the seven mile dam, and every year host a fishing contest for kids at the Lafarge Quarry on m-32. The past few years we have been an integral part of the Reel Fun Fishing Tournament on Grand Lake drilling 1200 holes and running the tourney the following day. We are one the clubs that help make the Brown Trout Festival a success, and now the BT has a Walleye Tournament as part of the week long fishing contest. We host fishing seminars every year to help our members become better Walleye fishermen, and if you attend any of our tournaments, you will see how improved and professional our members have become. We even have two members, Erich Carlson and Wayne Vandyke that went on to win National and World Walleye Championships.

Walleye fishing in the bay has greatly changed since 1990, but our members have adapted and found new areas and methods that produce Walleyes. Our dues still remain at \$15 a year and for anyone that wants to become a better fisherman and catch Walleyes, it is money well spent.

I hesitate to start naming people because you always forget some who really deserve credit for the success of the club, but here goes.

This is only a snap shot of the Thunder Bay Walleye Club. Much goes on behind the obvious that can never be heralded enough.

Thank you Mike McGirr. This took time and a lot of memory recall from all involved in this.

### **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.

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. Contact Eric MacKenzie boomer2410@hotmail.com or 989 657 0079.

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Minn Kota Maxxum 80lb thrust cable drive bow mount with 45 inch shaft. Like new condition with the quick release bracket. \$300. Please Contact Mark Haugerud 989-884-2318

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Minn Kota All Terrain Tournament Series bow mount. 70# thrust long shaft like new. Original price \$649 make offer. Mike McGirr 989 354 8781

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I have for sale 8-okuma dead eye walleye specific trolling rods. 7' ML action. \$25 each or \$160 for all 8. These are brand new still in the box. Retail on these are \$35 each plus shipping. Eric Kruczynski [eric.kruczynski@yahoo.com](mailto:eric.kruczynski@yahoo.com)

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Some For Sale items did not make this newsletter due to room on the newsletter. They will be in the July edition. Denny Burns

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#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Andrew Babcock	Ossineke	Wayne Winter	Greenbush
Ryan Sagady	Bay City	Donald Berry	Lachine
Jeff Tucholski	Presque Isle	Gene Samp	Ossineke

#### **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 Tournaments**

**Hubbard Lake, Saginaw Bay, Long Lake, Nite Eyes, Mullet Lk, TBWC Veterans Tourney**

##### **Brown Trout**

**Kids Fishing Derby Lafarge Quarry M-32 West**

**Presentation for TBWC funds for the Catherine V BY Mike McGirr**

**Any other business**