

Thunder Bay Walleye Club

Newsletter

June, 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

**** Club Activities ****

- ***Jesse Besser Museum Activity for July***

On Saturday, July 25 from 12 - 2pm, the Besser Museum will host a free Family Fun Day featuring the topic of fishing. We have an awesome fish exhibit by Ralph Bolda and Betsy Willis that we will be highlighting that day. We have also asked the Woodcarvers if they would display their fish pieces and maybe work on making wooden lures or just work on their pieces during the program. We have asked Howard Lahti if he could demonstrate how to do a fish boil; he said we would need to get about 50lbs of fish donated for his demonstration and to allow visitors to have a small sample of fish. We would like to invite the Walleye Club to participate by demonstrating how to properly clean fish and what to look for when cleaning fish, and demonstrate how to make crawler harnesses.

I have also spoken with Bruce Kirschner and he will be contacting the president of the bass club; we would like them to do casting lessons with a small wadding pool in the backyard.

I am thinking of contacting someone to tell fishing stories or give great fishing tips; I was thinking Steve Speaks.

If you have other ideas to add to a fishing day program please let me know. I think this a great way for the Besser Museum to complement the Brown Trout Festival. I will be attending your June 10 meeting to present my idea to your club.

Thank you,
Chris Witulski
Education Curator
Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan
356-2202

- ***Fish Cleaning –Carl Kelly***

Similar to the cormorant harvests, the fish cleaning has been sluggish due to the weather but will pick up as the weather straightens around allowing the DNR to get on the water. He would like to increase to a total of four teams; he currently has two on standby at this time. If you are interested in being part of this program, please telephone Carl ASAP @ 356-4694.

- ***Jim Johnson- Speaker at the May Meeting***

Jim Johnson was the speaker of the month and everyone reported that Jim did a great job at presenting the material on reef development for the big lake and were really excited about the possibilities that it might provide for habitat. He stated that they are targeting three existing reefs off of Lafarge and are looking to increase it by 800' in length and 30' wide. The DNR recognizes that the efforts will also assist the other species but sees it as an opportunity to increase natural production in the area near the river mouth for spawning walleye.

In addition, Jim targeted on issues on a commercial fisherman in Tawas who is suing the DNR for violating his believed constitutional rights to harvest walleye on the Saginaw Bay by not responding to his request for such permits. If you are interested in reading the article, you can locate it in The Bay City Times, May 12, 2009 edition. It is worth the time to read it.

Jim also discussed the samples that are necessary from club members to identify the stomach contents of the local fish and would appreciate any members' assistance providing this valuable information. He thought that a club tournament would be a great time to get this information.

Thanks Jim for taking the time to visit our club with all this valuable information.

**** Club News ****

- ***Lincoln Lions Fishing Tournament***

The Lions are hosting their 26th annual fishing tournament for salmon, trout, and walleye starting on June 10th and ending the 14th. If you are interested in getting information for this event, you can contact Jon Kruttlin @ 354-2020 or the contact from the Lions @ day 989-736-8151 or evening 989-471-5557.

- ***Captain Ed Update on Cormorants***

There has not been a great deal of success due to the poor weather, lots of wind, to harvest the birds. They will report when they more to discuss.

- ***Walleye Club Clothing***

If you are interested in getting a Walleye Club jacket, please give Steve Hubert a call @ 657-4646, 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.

- ✓ We have specialty items that have been ordered: 2 jackets (Bob and Sam), medium sweatshirts, large window sticker (Joseph Cumi) which should to be picked up at this meeting or arrangements made to be picked up and paid for.

- ***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. You can also BLOG (say what's on your mind) on this web sight. Please keep it to fishing related topics.

- ***Big Bite Baits***

We will have product available at the June meeting 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. We have some jigs, and biobait. I will not be at the meeting due softball and will enlist someone's assistance (Gregg you have been chosen AGAIN) to get the material there. I will have everything priced @ \$5. 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.

Brown Trout

It is that time of the year the club volunteers it's time to help the Brown Trout with various tasks from weighing fish to serving beer. The schedule is not cast in stone yet but I did get a preliminary schedule which is nearly a duplicate of last year. There will be a special USPS mailing to all current members detailing the schedule along with duties for each as well as raffle tickets for the Club Car XRT 1550 Utility Vehicle and Trailer.

Your help is needed to make this another success for the club. This is our only fund raiser to help support the fishing related activities the club does for the community.

****Club Tournaments****

- ***Night Eyes, May 29th and 30th, 2009***

It was quite a two-day tournament with an intolerable amount of cold and wind. Friday proved to be a challenge with the wind changing on Wednesday pushing all the warm water out and to the west. Those that had been pre-fishing found that their plans were going to change and would have to find new water or bang out what had been working before the tournament. Many of us that went out and found fish earlier in the week found that they were gone come Wednesday and Thursday. Friday was windy and choppy and proved to be the better of the two nights and allowed people to move around to some extent. A few boats headed south and most remained in the bay to hit the spots that were working earlier like Grass Island, Partridge Point, North Shore, the Humps, Sulfer, and the Big Reef. Those that did well boated fish while the majority tried to bang at least three to remain in the hunt for the next day. Leading the pack in day one were: Hubert's 5 fish, LaPlaunt 5 fish, and Skiba 5 fish. When everyone arrived at the harbor, the weather forecast did not look promising for anyone heading more than one mile offshore because the wind was

clipping at 10-20 out of the North West, and you could see the white caps just off the break wall. Gregg and I were one of the last to launch and watched as Moose, Steve, and Jim screamed inside of Sulfer to run south, and we could see the pounding that they were taking. This in no way was the beating that all three would take to get to the area that they wanted to fish. Gregg and I headed out and stopped about one mile north of Sulfur after spearing the first wave- maybe 5'. The winds never died and the guys that went south had tough time fishing let alone trying to make it back. Jim and crew came back empty handed after fighting 8' waves and not able to fish for more than 30 minutes. Jim told me that his boards were diving so deep after coming off a wave that the baits were out of the water. Moose and crew boated 5 decent fish but were not sure that they could make it back, and after meeting them in the harbor, their wet attire proved that they should have stayed in Black River. Steve reported the night's fishing as the worst conditions that he has fished on the big lake ever! He attributed his success to his crew and everyone putting in the hard work setting lines, fighting fish, and not getting sick. He reported that they were done fishing both nights before 10:30, and Saturday did all they could to stay dry with the huge waves. We have to be thankful that everyone made it back safely and in one piece. The top prize went to the Hubert crew pulling a total for both nights of 44.61#'s winning a total of \$615. They fished off of Scare Crow on Friday and Saturday targeting 17-15' of water with 18's and Husky Jerks. Steve reported that Saturday was a mixture of good driving and hard work by all four team members. He said that without all of them, they would not have been successful. Coming in second, and having an equally good catch but not traveling nearly as far was the team of Ben Skiba, Brad Skiba, and Chris Wade. They fished the Partridge Point area and inside Grass Island Reef using 18's and Reef Runners. They boated a total of ten fish weighing 31.55#'s and winning \$262. Third place was won by Don Harrison, Weasel Al Douglas and Larry Donajkowski Jr. who caught fish on the North Shore between the Humps and White Fish Point with 18's and Rattling Rogues. They pulled two fish Friday and five on Saturday for a total weight of 24.97#'s. Fourth Place went to the PBR crew of Brian Matchett, Mark Byce and stand in for Jim Watt's, Bob Jackowiak who pulled one fish Friday and five on Saturday for a total of 22.99#'s. They hit their fish in Black River with deep diving cranks in 30' of water. When they pulled in to weigh their fish, Bob pulled off his rubber boots and dumped a boot full of water- it was cold he said. Rounding out at fifth place were Don and Matt Mischley pulling three fish on Friday and two on Saturday for a total of 22.12#'s.

Upcoming Activities –

1. Lake Wyniah, June 7, 2009
2. Lion's Harrisville Tournament June 10-14
3. Lake Huron, June 21, 2009 7-3
4. Mullet Lake, June 28, 2009
5. Lake Huron, July 12, 2009 7-3
6. Brown Trout 18-19th Walleye Extravaganza 2
7. Jesse Besser Museum Family Fun Day, July 25th 12-2
8. Saginaw Bay, August 9, 2009 7-3
9. Make your reservations for the Soo (fishing day may change)

Other Events:

****- Please let Romeo know the events you are involved with by calling 356-1703 work 358-5219 email bourdager@charter.net – we'd like to promote our member's activities and accomplishments -****

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Scott Ouellette

Alpena

Rick Colonna

Millersburg

Tom Cloft

Alpena

Jerry Yarch

Rogers City

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

- **Besser Tech Room - Room 112** in the BTC

Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month

AGENDA:

- Old Business
 - Questions on Jim Johnson
 - Night Eyes wrap up
 - Cormorant update
- New Business
 - Chris Wituski- Museum- Family Fun Day
 - Lincoln Lions Fishing Tournament, June 10-14
 - Plans for Mullett Lake
 - Plans for Saginaw Bay
 - Soo Tournament- Discussion to move the tournament day to Sunday like always- Many club members have shared that they don't see the advantage to the Saturday since some may only be able to be in the Soo for Saturday and Sunday. Jim and I agreed and want to have the club vote at the meeting. If you are planning on fishing the tournament, make sure that you get an email address to Denny so he can send out a note to all members via email on the decision.

- ❖ **ADDRESS, EMAIL, OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES?**
- ❖ **PLEASE CALL DENNY BURNS @ 354-2419 ANYTIME AND LEAVE A MESSAGE 😊**