

# Thunder Bay Walleye Club Newsletter

July 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

## FISHING IS GOOD

Well, summer is finally here, at least when you look at the calendar! Fishing got off to an overall slow start, but has heated up significantly. Fishing on all the local lakes has been good as Grand and Long have been putting up good number on both cranks and crawlers, and Hubbard is steady as always. Fishing on the bay has been pretty good, with some days being markedly better than others. The night bite has certainly been more productive lately, but the day time bite has been steadily improving but you have to find them as always. Follow the wind, and you'll find the fish. Overall, the fish in the bay seem to be a bit bigger this year, at least for me, averaging over four pounds. There are so many places to fish and not enough time to fish them all. The salmon and trout are on the feed too! Pick a decent day, a lake, and you'll likely find yourself cranking in some fish. If not, it beats working.

## Club Tournament Results

### **Nite Eyes Fri & Sat June 12<sup>th</sup> 7 13<sup>th</sup> 6p - 1a**

Again Sports Unlimited donated a trailer for the weigh-in at no cost to the club. This helps the weigh-in people keep warm and dry waiting for all of you to come in at 1am. The first night was great weather wise, hardly any wind and warm temps. There was a snafu on start time between the club regular tourney schedule (start at 6pm) and the Nite Eyes filer (start at 7pm). After some discussion it was decided to start at 6PM and if someone did show up for the 7pm start they would be allowed to fish up to 2am depending on the time they started.

Friday night saw 1<sup>st</sup> place team Tony Gapczynski weighing 24.8 lbs. weighing 5 fish, the largest 5.43 lbs.

2<sup>nd</sup> place was team Don Mischley with 22.66# weighing 5 fish, the largest 4.63 lbs.

3<sup>rd</sup> place was team Dan Vanmassenhove weighing 22.39 lbs. weighing 5 fish with the largest 5.09 lbs.

4<sup>th</sup> place was team Ryan Stemkowski weighing 21.41 lbs. with 5 fish and the largest 4.9 lbs.

5<sup>th</sup> place was team Eric Kurczynski with 21.34 lbs. weighing 5 fish and the largest 5.03 lbs.

Largest fish Friday night goes to team Jim Leeseberg with a 5.49 lbs.

Saturday day 2 proved to be a deal breaker for a lot of fishermen. Wind was out of the north east and much cooler and as walleye do, changed their pattern.

Total weights for both nights finds team Adam Birk who came from 7<sup>th</sup> place Friday night sitting in 1<sup>st</sup> after the Saturday night weigh in with a total weight of 43.03 lbs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place goes to team Dan Vanmassenhove with 42.57 lbs. 3<sup>rd</sup> goes to team Scott Gagnon weighing a total of 36.57 lbs. 4<sup>th</sup> is Eric Kruczynski team with a total of 36.31 lbs. and 5<sup>th</sup> is team Chris Wade weighing a total of 35.98 Lbs.

Note the difference of less than a ½ Lb. between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Between 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> the difference is .59 lbs. Largest of Saturday night was 7.24 lbs. boated by team Bryan Kozlowski.

Crawler harnesses until dark switching to hard bodies seemed to be the key.

## Mullet Lake June 21<sup>st</sup> 7a – 3p

Jackie and Denny prefished Saturday hitting all the icons from the previous years with only one pike. Wind was almost nonexistent and temps in the middle 70 degree range.

Sunday we say very nice weather with enough wind to put some chop on the water. We started trolling along Aloha State park and finally boated a fish around round point area and finished up with 3 fish at Stoney Point area pulling hard bodies. Ron out of time. Some boats caught fish on crawlers. Should have gone to Stoney Point first thing in the morning, drats.

1<sup>st</sup> place goes to goes to Tony Gapczynski and Chris Wade with 13.13 lbs. with 5 fish and the largest 4.27 lbs. 2<sup>nd</sup> is Matt Franklin, Eric and Scott MacKenzie, Dan and Gary Vanmassenhove with 10.86 lbs. and 3<sup>rd</sup> is Bruce Chonlinski and Bryan Kozlowski with 5 fish weighing 8.84 lbs. Largest of the day was 4.32 lbs. by Jim Leeseberg and Jon Kruttlin.

### POINT STANDINGS THRU MULLET

2015 Thunder Bay Walleye Club		
Top 50 of 123 Entrants Best 5 of 6 of 10 Tournaments		
Name	Points	Rank
	<b>Best 5 of 10</b>	
Gabara, Nick	437.40	1
Kruczynski, Eric	437.40	1
Wade, Chris	436.66	2
Franklin, Matt	429.26	3
VanMassenhove, Dan	429.26	3
VanMassenhove, Gary	429.26	3
Birk, Adam	396.23	4
Kozlowski, Bryan	390.03	5
Kruczynski, Gage	382.64	6
Gapczynski, Tony	377.06	7
Skiba, Ben	346.69	8
Gagnon, Scott	288.92	9
MacKenzie, Eric	236.09	10

### 1<sup>ST</sup> TBWC VETERANS TOURNEY

The club didn't know how well this was going to go over and was not advertised much more than word of mouth. Weather was great with a low north wind providing relatively smooth water. No entry fee or cost to anyone fishing with a lunch of brats, dogs, chips, soda, water and all the toppings after the weigh in on tables and chairs in the large flag pole area. Boats placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> by weight were given trophies. Carl Hatala spear headed this event with info from other club tournament people made this happen. 47 veterans fished including the TBWC boat captains from 7a – 1p. Our thanks for the TBWC 17 captains providing the fishing expertise along with their boats. Our thanks to all the TBWC member set up people. This looks like it may be a go in the future.

### NO MEETING IN AUGUST

## UP COMING TOURNAMENTS

### **Thunder Bay launch Alpena Boat Harbor Sun July 12<sup>th</sup> 7a – 3p**

This point club tournament is the prefish for the Brown Trout Walleye tournament this year. If you plan to fish BT you should fish this tourney.

### **Non Point Brown Trout Walleye Tournament Saturday and Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.**

See the Brown Trout web site for details. Guaranteed **\$8,000.00** first place.

### **Rockport Alternate Grand Lake Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> 7a – 3p.**

If the water at Rockport is too rough Grand Lake is the alternate we will fish. Launch is the south end DNR launch.

### **DNR James Farm Pond**

From: CwalinskiT@michigan.gov

To: jackieodennyb@frontier.com

Subject: 2015 fingerling walleye production James Farm Pond

Date: Wed, 17 Jun 2015 12:49:50 +0000

Denny,

DNR Fisheries Division here in Gaylord wants to thanks the Thunder Bay Walleye Club again for teaming up with us to successfully raise spring fingerling walleye in the James Farm Pond near Hillman. We set our mini fyke nets Sunday night in the pond, then captured fish for stocking both Monday and Tuesday. The usual suspects assisted us on the days harvesting the fish, and their assistance with fertilizing the pond, pumping water, mowing grass, and just “being around there” is always greatly appreciated by DNR.

Fingerlings averaged 1.5 inches. Here are the totals that we raised from the pond this year (a good year) and their final destinations:

\*East Twin Lake, Montmorency County – 69,780

\*Vaughn Lake, Alcona County – 9,357

\* Alcona Pond, Alcona County – 27,537

\*McCollum Lake, Oscoda County – 19,740

\*Tea Lake, Oscoda County – 5,922

\*Beaver Lake, Alpena County – 38,690

\*Big Lake, Otsego County – 11,646

\*Crooked Lake, Montmorency County – 15,284

\*Long Lake, Montmorency County – 15,072

\*Ess Lake, Montmorency County – 10,045

Once we drain the pond, other fingerlings that we could not capture in two days will be released into the Thunder Bay River and will continue to feed that river and the lower impoundments with walleye. The lakes stocked this year will likely be stocked again in 2017, while the other rotation of lakes will be stocked in 2016. We still have some lakes on our list to be stocked this year (Cooke Pond, Otsego Lake, others) but hope to receive those fish from our other rearing pond near Petoskey, and possibly from state ponds with surplus fish near Bay City.

Our crews will likely be back this fall at Beaver Lake and Long Lake (Montmorency Co) to evaluate the stocking efforts. We also hope to be on Hubbard Lake this fall one evening to assess wild production.

Thanks again for all your efforts TBWC!

## James Farm Pond Continued

Carl Kelly and Denny Burns have been pulling the boards (3 per day, total of 14) this week with the last board being removed the evening of Thursday July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carl had his small mesh net with him and collected many walleye 3" to 4" from the discharge tube going into the river. Considering the size at harvest, 1.5 inches average, they doubled their size in 10 days. The river system has been restocked.

A large number of pollywogs were noted. Should make the bass and other hungry big guys in the river system really happy.

### Brown Trout

We now have the club schedule for the 2015 Brown Trout Festival. Glen Klimczak is making a club member mailing to each of us for your volunteer hours. This year we are scheduled for some 3 hour weigh in blocks as well as some Big Tent show times. You get to see the show free. Rockport is in the mix as well. I have contacted the BT executive committee for info on the additional sights we are assigned to see what tasks are required. Hopefully I will have some info on what goes on at the Big Tent and Rockport for those volunteering at these sights. We need your help. Please call Glen with your times you can volunteer.

Glen has the BT raffle tickets and will be mailed out to randomly selected members. Again, the club is required to purchase \$1000.00 worth of raffle tickets to be part of the volunteer clubs for the BT.

### June 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes

Meeting called to order 7:08

Jim Leeseberg

Financials and minutes were read.

Ed Retherford said they had to stop cormorant control until after the nesting season. Fish and game may start oiling eggs and other measures for cormorant control.

Chronic wasting disease was found in deer in the Lansing area and that a kill off of deer by the DNR will follow.

Looks like the limit change in walleye season in Saginaw Bay is going to be a go. Perch limits may be reduced to 25.

Carl Kelly spoke about the Canadian slot limits.

Richard Hubert passed out a signup sheet for the walleye harvest at James Farm.

Cherokee Girard gave a follow up on last years Hooked for Life Fishing at Lafarge quarry on M-32. This year she has 209 kids currently signed up.

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.

Denny Burns said we have about 80 email members and 55 regular mailings.

Carl Kelly asked why we had so few fish cleaning events this year. New management in the DNR and other people in areas other than Alpena are using research fish for their communities feeding programs.

## June 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes continued

Discussion on the amount of nets in Saginaw Bay.

Richard James Farm harvest may be next week. He will keep signups informed.

Glen Klimczak said nothing new at Brown Trout, everything is running late again. Launch boundaries are Sturgeon Point to Adams Point.

Carl Hatala discussed adds costs for the BT Walleye Extravaganza and the \$8000.00 first place guaranteed payout during the BT Festival.

At this time we have 20 boats committed for the TBWC Veterans Tournament.

Mike McGirr asked for a donation for the Katherine V boat restoration project. An info sign will list all donation at the sight of the boat. Dave Birmingham made a motion for \$500.00 for the Katherine V and seconded by Dave Golder, motion carried. The Besser Museum gave 5 tickets for the \$100.00 meal and event. Tickets were raffled at the June meeting as the event was the following weekend.

Pam Hubert made a motion for \$200.00 Hooked for Life Kids Fishing at Lafarge on M-32, seconded by Al Hess, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:30

### ***LAST CALL*** **CLUB MEMBERSHIPS**

**2014 MEMBERSHIPS ARE NO LONGER VALID**

### **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.

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

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

## FOR SALE continued

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)

1996 14 ft. Smokercraft, Big Fisherman. 25 HP Merc 2 stroke tiller. 47# thrust trolling motor. Easy load Shorelander trailer. Everything is like new condition \$4250 OBO. Call Carl 248 701-8569 before 9 pm. Many extras.

2014 Starcraft STX Viper 206

- Professionally rigged and maintained by Augres Marine - Team Starcraft Pro Wrap, black with metal flake under wrap - Starcraft Lifetime +6 transferable bow to stern warranty - 2014 Mercury ProXS 250hp, only 70 hours and transferable warranty - SS Tempest prop - Smartcraft gauge - Trailmaster Platinum Package dual axle trailer w/ spare tire and swing tongue - Many extras - 989.385.1311 -\$48,000.00

### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 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)

### NO MEETING IN AUGUST

#### Agenda:

**Club Tourneys**

**Nite Eyes, Mullet Lk, TBWC Veterans Tourney**

**Brown Trout**

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

**Any other business**

Mark Byce and I just booked a cabin at River Bend Resort (Detour) for August 19-22. Just wanted to let you two know in case you wanted to spend a few days fishing, enjoy bon fires, feast on a fish fry and relax along the St. Mary's River! Feel free to invite others as you see fit. River Bend Resort contact number is 1-906-297-2400. They are flexible on the length of your stay.