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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION



DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF MICHIGAN'S WALLEYE FISHERY (SINCE JULY, 1976)

January 2020

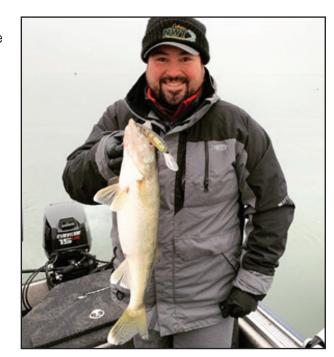
http://www.lscwa.net

EQUITIES IN EFFICIENCY By Rob Barnes

All of us are busy with managing our schedules, time, and commitments in daily life. As we get into a 'rhythm' of what our days look like, we learn and develop patterns of comfort. Now comfort can be a good thing but it can also be a hindrance from accomplishing things more effectively. This requires self-awareness and sometimes a gentle nudge from folks who are invested in you. How do successful people accomplish more things and do so more quickly? Efficiency.

I don't know about you but my time on the water has become more of a luxury as of late. I want to maximize my time on the water and fish more efficiently. That means covering more water, setting baits out faster, and developing 'systems' to reduce the likelihood of instances where my lines are out of the water. What does this look like practically for me? For the past 5 years I spent the off season absorbing all the information I could about how to read and interpret sonar at above plane speed to mark fish on the go and to cover water fast. I also took the time to ask experts about reading Lowrance Structure Scan side imaging to better interpret how fish relate to structure and how they suspend in the water column in various conditions. Lastly, I seize every opportunity to surround myself with great people and outstanding anglers who are willing to answer my questions and share ideas. In no way am I boasting about myself, rather, the purpose of this article is to encourage our readers to keep learning and always remain teachable.

If I'm assuming correctly, then our readers value their limited time on the water just as I do. Why wouldn't we want to learn to become more efficient at our craft? Ask yourself what is holding you back from becoming a better angler and set goals



which you can crush in 2020. If I can ever help you with your angling goals or you just want to chat about fishing, come talk to me at one of our club meetings or reach out on social media. Let's make 2020 a year to remember.

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY ~ 7:30 P.M.

JANUARY 15, 2020

FOR ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

(Walk-ins Welcome)

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401 Groesbeck Hwy. | Mt. Clemens, MI 48043 586-840-7582

Next Reg. Meeting: FEBRUARY 19, 2020

Log onto our website to find out what is happening in and around the Club www.lscwa.net

The WALLEYE WORLD is the official monthly newsletter of the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association (a 501c3 non-profit organization). We welcome all written/photo contributions from the members. Written/photo contributions can be submitted to editorlscwa@gmail.com. All written or photo contributions are the property of the LSCWA Walleye World and subject to edit. We reserve the right to refuse any material. Views and opinions expressed in the Walleye World are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the LSCWA, its members, or its advertisers. The LSCWA, the Walleye World or its publisher assumes no liability with respect to the use of information contained herein. 700 copies printed each month (1,200 for Jan. & None for Nov.)

EDITOR: Sarah McNichol. Send articles and/or photos to editorlscwa@gmail.com

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CONSERVATION PLEDGE

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country, its air, soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter 2020

Jan 9th-12thUltimate Fishing Show in Novi	
Jan 15th General Membership meeting	
Jan 21stBoard of Directors meeting	
Jan 25th Cold as Ice	
Jan 26th Kids Ice Outing	
Feb 19th General Membership meeting	
Feb 25thBoard of Directors meeting	

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BINGO

Prizes are mounting every week. Come on out give it a try and support your club. Prizes total \$2200 every night or more!

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Doors open at 4PM • Play at 6PM We are always looking for volunteers. See Rich at our meetings or events.

ANOTHER GREAT REASON TO JOIN THE LSCWA By Tim Muir

Michigan United Conservation Clubs is the largest state-based conservation organization in the nation. Since 1937, MUCC has been uniting citizens to conserve, protect and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage. Our strength lies in our numbers: More than 40,000 trappers, hunters, anglers and conservationists, and more than 200 affiliate clubs comprise Michigan United Conservation Clubs.



MUCC is most known for its longstanding and highly efficient policy record. Leading initiatives such as the Bottle Bill and Proposal G, MUCC relies on grassroots policy written by its members to direct staff in Lansing. One MUCC member voice has the ability to change the course of natural resources policy in Michigan. With three registered lobbyists on staff and a third-party lobbying firm

working on MUCC's behalf, the organization is the most effective state-based conservation policy organization in the nation. Twelve full-time, dedicated staff carry out the organization's mission within four distinct pillars: policy/advocacy, habitat, communications and education. MUCC operates the most robust public and private land field programs in the nation through On the Ground (OTG), On the Water (OTW) and the Michigan Wildlife Cooperatives program. The organization has educated and introduced more than 58,000 children to the outdoors since 1946 through hands-on programs at Michigan Out-of-Doors Youth Camp and publishes TRACKS magazine, which aligns with Next Generation Science Standards and is used throughout Michigan school districts. And MUCC has published Michigan Out-of-Doors, Michigan's premium outdoor journal, since 1947. Taken together, MUCC is conservation in action.

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect, preserve, and promote the walleye fishing in Michigan through conservation, education, and enhancing fishing opportunities for all; celebrating our tradition since 1976.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year! It is 2020 already! Jeez where does the time go? I am extremely excited for OUR club in 2020. We have so many good things happening. It is a great time to be a part of it! Taking a look back on 2019, OUR club had a really good year, none of which



would be possible without the hard work of those that help out. There are too many to thank without risk of forgetting someone so one BIG GIANT THANK YOU to all that helped this club function.

We are planning some really great events, seminars, and tournaments among other things for this coming year. If you are not a member now, this the perfect time to think about joining. OUR club is not just about fishing. It is also about family and friendship. I have made many lifelong friends from this club. Good people, good times, and good fishing. Come check out a meeting. If you are already a member, bring someone with you who isn't a member. Let's continue to grow.

As far as fishing goes, 2019 was a pretty darn good year wasn't it? I caught my personal best on Lake St. Clair on December 26th. This fish was 28" and over 8lbs. More times than not this season, we came home with lots of nice fish. This season was really good for most and by the looks of it, 2020 will be just as good, if not better. I think I am ready to just skip over winter and ice season and get right to spring!

As I write this, it is raining so the thought of being out on the ice seems like it will be a while off yet. When (hopefully) we get good safe ice, please be safe out there. No fish is worth a life. Take this time to start your springtime preparations. Get that fresh line on your reels. Do any repairs and maintenance to make sure all your gear is ready to go once the ice is gone.

There is a lot in store for the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association for 2020. I am really looking forward to making OUR club something special. This club means WAY more to me than just fishing. I have made lifelong friends which to me, is what this club is all about....oh and eating walleye too YUM!

Good luck out there this year and be safe.

Tim

291 CURRENT MEMBERS

TAMING THE WATER By: Kirk Cleland

Everyone that has spent any amount of time out on Lake St Clair or the rivers knows that it can get a little "choppy" out there all year round between the spring and fall winds and the recreational boaters in the summer. With online weather forecasts being about as accurate as internet message board fishing reports, playing the weather doesn't always work either. That can lead to some bumpy boat rides trying to get to your hot fishing spot.

One thing that can certainly take the bite out of the ride and save your neck and back in the process are shock absorbing seat pedestals. There are several manufactures that make high quality aftermarket pedestals most of which can be self-installed fairly easily. The two main types are spring loaded (Smooth Moves) and hydraulic (Wavepro, Airwave). There are pros and cons to both styles but having ridden in both styles, I can attest that they are effective and make a tremendous difference in ride comfort.



The advantage of the spring-loaded style is that they tend to be more cost effective and tend to offer the softest ride. The major disadvantage tends to be the ejection seat effect if you go over big waves it can feel like it



launches you up as well as, in my opinion, the aesthetics of the blocky appearance of the pedestal.

With hydraulic shocks they aren't quite as soft as the spring shock but overall feel they have a much smoother, balanced ride. While neither style is cheap, the hydraulic style tends to cost a couple hundred more. Considering what most anglers have invested in rods, tackle, electronics, etc. these seat pedestals are good investments that will last a long time, can be transferred to a new boat if needed, save your body hours of wear and tear annually, don't require batteries, software updates, or gas, and best of all can't be bitten off by a musky.

NOW IS THE TIME By: Tim Muir

Now is the time to start preparations for the spring "soft water" fishing season. If you can get started and ahead of the game now, come spring, the hectic, chaotic last-minute frenzy of getting everything ready will no longer be.

Most of the things can be done now, in the living room in front of the TV with a beverage in hand. Organizing tackle, replacing hooks, adding the new ones acquired over the winter to the herd. One can never have enough crankbaits right? Collecting up all the jigs and soft plastics and returning them to their proper home. I know for me, my soft plastic bags look like a jailbreak. Same with jigs. Separating them now by color/size will only add to time spent fishing instead of sorting come April. Another thing that I do is when I get a new bag of soft plastics. I add some scent/attractant to the bag. This gives the bait a chance to have that smell sink into the plastic. This will hopefully keep that jig in the fish's mouth just long enough to set the hook. Make those crawlers harnesses. You will be happy you did in May once the bass invade the river and you are not up half the night tying them the night before your first lake trip of the season. Planer boards. Clips wear out. Screws get loosened.

Can't overlook maintance on your rods and reels. Fresh line, broken guides, gear lube, recalibrate your line counters. So much to do. Any one of these being neglected could be enough to prevent a trip to the taxidermist at worst or a fish fry. Take the time now it is well worth it.

Take care of you boat and its accessories too. Batteries need to be stored properly. Electronics in a warm place. If you are planning any boat repairs or upgrades and have access to it...get-r-done. 2 seasons ago I neglected by batteries. First time out. Not 1 dead battery...3! Talk about a bummer. Took a day off work early April, first trip of the season. Get to the ramp.....nada. Strange thing though is the boat did start at home in the warm garage. I thought I was good. Lesson learned the hard way.

Remember all these things as you are walking around the ultimate fishing show and thinking to yourself as you are buying \$20 worth of harness blades or a dozen custom crankbaits. Your success this summer starts now.

WINTER WALLEYE WONDERLAND By: Rich Benson



Winter is off to a warm start so far but, if you haven't heard, the walleye fishing has been HOT in many areas around Michigan including our beloved Lake St. Clair. Club members have been fishing the near shore areas for a couple of months now with varying success with many days producing limits and hours of catch & release action. Trolling deep diving crankbaits or bottom bouncing stick baits such as Rapala F series minnows or even casting has put many fish in anglers livewells in this cold-water season. Let me share the most recent, and for me, very memorable trips out on LSC.

December 26 started off as an unusually warm day on land but looking at the launch and path out to the lake it was apparent we were still facing the icy grip of winter. Ice had formed in the canal a few days earlier and a few brave souls had made their way out in boats in the day prior leaving a broken, narrow channel to the lake. Once we made our way through to the lake there was no ice anywhere and very calm seas so making the 3 mile run was a breeze. With a water temp of 35 degrees and waves 6" or less we started our troll paralling the shoreline at 1.3-1.5 mph pulling Bandit Walleye Deep crankbaits 40'-50' behind our Offshore planer boards. Soon, the fish responded, one at a time we would get a slow pull back and sometimes a board got buried behind the boat. Our first few fish were nice ones, fat from the shad and golden shiners I've been finding in them this past fall. Putting on weight for the winter and the spring spawn, these fish were all well fed!

Then it happened, a board pulling a JT Custom's Seyka Perch Bandit got buried behind my boat. It was club president Tim Muir's turn and he began reeling in a big fish. He said "no way is this a walleye, too heavy" but I watched the fight and said no, I bet it's a big eye. A couple minutes of slow reeling brought the fish to the side of the boat, fellow club member Ray Wauters was on the net to bring in this Lake St. Clair beauty. Tim's fish would tip the scales at 8.62lbs and 28" long. While a fish of this size wouldn't even turn a head on Lake Erie, on Lake St. Clair this is a beast! I've

seen many big fish caught on LSC over the years, many 8 & 9 pounders that once reached the scale turned out to be 6 & 7 lb fish.

After the high-fives and pictures were taken, we got back to the business of fishing. Making long passes, slowly zig-zagging our way through the 18-20 boats out taking advantage of this late season fishery, we picked away at the fish putting 10 in the box by 11:45. We then experienced a lull, no pull backs for over an hour. Deciding to change tactics, I steered the boat for shallower water than we had been fishing. I headed for 13-14 foot and seen bait and then good marks on the bottom. At the end of the pass we had put 5 more eyes in the box, all of them on Seyka perch Bandits. Turning the boat back around we noticed everyone else took note of the nets flying on our boat and had pinched in tight as well. After the next pass and no fish, we decided to call it a day-15 fat walleyes and good memories made.

These late season fishing trips provide more than fish for the freezer, they provide valuable learning experiences that help make you better fisherman. Lure presentations on certain days may be the biggest decision you make-clear water usually means natural looking baits such as those

that mimic perch or shad. Stock Bandits in the coconut candy & brown back khaki really worked well for me this fall, as did the JT Custom Seyka perch. Dirty or murky water days it seemed brighter colors, yellows, oranges and fluorescent greens put fish in the box. There is a well-known adage, dark days, dark bait.....bright days, bright bait, this certainly seemed the case most of this fall for me. Another learning experience is boat control, without being able to properly maintain speed and a course heading you are simply washing lures. Electric motors, kickers, trolling bags or drift socks will all have their place on certain days according to conditions.

Finally, I must say it pays to belong to a club such as the LSCWA. At the launch we met up with other members and made plans to chat on the radio and text back and forth sharing info over the course of the day. This not only helped each other put fish in the box but also helped retrieve lost gear. In the course of clearing a line I dropped one of my Offshore boards in the water. I radioed back to club member Ted Stehney who was 1000' behind us in his boat. A few minutes later he was able to retrieve and later in the day return my board, thanks Ted!

All in all, we had a great day on the water, and the largest LSC walleye I've personally seen caught. Travis Bender did catch a 9.06 lb walleye in our 2018 May Madness Tournament, but this one is the biggest I've seen on LSC and the largest caught on my boat on LSC. Congratulations to to Tim and a great net job for him by Ray. Get out on the water but BE SAFE!

JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER: MARK ROMANACK OF FISHING

$411\ TV$ By Rob Barnes

Our January guest speaker is Mark Romanack of Fishing 411 TV. Mark and his son Jake travel throughout North America chasing the best bites to produce their TV show which helps educate a national audience with how to be successful on the water. Mark is a Michigan native, esteemed outdoor writer, and world class angler. If you didn't know already Mark has deep roots in the walleye angling world and has enjoyed success in the past while fishing on the tournament trail.

Mark will be sharing about the latest regarding walleye techniques, sonar interpretation, and trolling technology. We look forward to hearing from Mark and tapping into his years of experience fishing for walleye!



2020 TREEHOUSE SCHEDULE

Jan 29th	Apple Annie's	28030 Gratiot, Roseville
Feb 26th	M29 Diner	9816 M-29 Dixie.
Mar 25th	Bob Evans', Chesterfield	45140 Corners Ct. 48047
April 29th	Big Boy Restaurant	29300 23 Mile 48047
May 27th	Bucks Diner	8927 Dixie Fair Haven, Ira
June 24th	Rachele's / Norms Bayside Café	Next to Blue Water Bait
July 29th	Ravis Grille	46710 Gratiot, Chesterfield
Aug 26th	The Golden Greek	180 N. Groesbeck
Sept 27th	The Pantry Restraunt & Deli	44945 Morley DrClinton Twp
Oct 28th	RAMS Horn	9-Mile & Jefferson, 48080
Nov 25th	Gus' Coney Isle	Gratiot just S. of 23 Mile
Dec	No Treehouse in December	

Jan 27th

Strawberry Fields



Don Murray's vet fishing partner and Mike showing a few of Don and partner's catch of August 8th vet fishing day. If you would like to help in our upcoming event, please see me at a meeting or call me at 810-765-8158. Mike Roush





2020 Annual Children's Ice Fishing Event! Sunday, January 26th 9am – 2pm

(Makeup day February 9th)

Registration located at Lake St Clair Metro Park (Metro Beach), Day Sail Launch

Near the Surfside Shelter (Heated Restrooms!)

Free Event!

Children Learn to Ice Fish!

(All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)

Refreshments and Prizes Available!

Taxi Service onto the ice provided



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Call the Club Hot Line @ 1-586-778-0480 or See LSCWA.NET

Individuals or groups wishing to donate prizes may contact the Hot Line! Event is depending on acceptable ice conditions.

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