LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 130 ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI 48080

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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 2021

http://www.lscwa.net

DECEMBER DERBY

December 11th & 12th was the last days for the LSCWA's first Fall Derby Series. Hosted by Chris and Susu Wroblewski at Anglers Point Marina, this one was a race to the finish for quite a few anglers with Nick Markowski taking the first Fall Derby Championship Trophy and title home!

Nick fished all 4 fall derbies, two of them alone in his boat. Starting each derby he was on the water first, off the water last. There wasn't a thing he didn't try and it paid off for him by being consistent. December's derby was no different, the day started off with relatively calm seas, with the wind picking up near dusk and getting downright nasty on Saturday. Most guys that entered fish caught them Friday evening as most everyone didn't fish Saturday at all.

Nick had to fish until nearly midnight on Friday to land one fish as conditions worsened through the evening. Texting with him, he was hoping that one fish would be enough to retain his points lead which it did! Nick finished in 1st with 27 points, with Joe Julian 2nd with 24 points and Jeff VanTorre 3rd with 23 points.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ANGLERS POINT MARINA FOR HOSTING OUR FALL DERBY SERIES!



LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION

(586) 778-0480

LSCWA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Rich Benson Vice President – Eric Lenz Financial Secretary – Bob Barnes Recording Secretary – Rick Okerjhjelm Membership Secretary – Don Murray

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2020-2022 Jeff VanTorre Dr. Kirk Cleland Jared Roe **Dick Benson** Nick Markowski Past President, Tim Muir

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JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

As of now we would like to have an in person meeting but it looks increasingly likely that we will not be able to meet in person. Look for some kind of online meeting like we have been doing if an in person meeting is not possible. Hopefully we will be able to get back to meeting in person soon. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates.

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 **ADVERTISING EDITOR: Steve Sharon**

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 2021

Jan 20thGeneral Membership Meeting (TBD)
Jan 26thBoard of Directors Meeting
Jan 31st Kids Ice Outing (TBD)
Feb 17thGeneral Membership meeting (TBD)
Feb 23rd Board of Directors Meeting

CUT OUT COUPON & MAIL

APPLICATION FORM AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS Make check or money order payable to: LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 130 St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 PLEASE PRINT

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□ Single Membership \$40.00 □ Family Membership \$45.00 Includes Spouse & Children to 16 years Renewal

□ Senior Citizens \$30.00 Includes Spouse Senior Family \$35.00 Includes Spouse & Grandchildren to 16 years **J**unior \$15.00 Children up to 16 Years Old

Referred By:

How did you hear about us?

BINGO

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

> 20791 E. 13 Mile Rd Roseville, MI 48066

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

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COMMERCIAL FISHING LEGISLATION

Unfortunately, the commercial fishing bills that we heard so much about over the past year did not make it through the process and ended up not getting out of the Senate Natural Resource Committee before the term ended. The holdup was with Sen Ed McBroom who added a bunch of amendments with very little time to go over them and also did not bring these to the committee for a vote even though he had said he would.

It does remain possible that the same bills can be re-introduced this year and the process begins again.

There is a little bit of good that came out if it though. The DNR did impose some new fisheries orders on the commercial fishery that really will affect the way and how they can fish this coming spring.

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

Wow, what a year 2020 was. I don't want to even say what could be worse or what happens next, because I really don't want to tempt fate, let's hope this new year is better for all of us.

December was a great month to fish Lake St. Clair, limit



catches of walleye continue right up to this writing of guys trolling crankbaits slowly along the western side in American waters. Depths from 5' to 18', speeds 1.2-1.7mph and natural looking baits led to some great catches on my boat and for others as well. With the walleye fishing being so good you know the muskies were right in the thick of things as well, I landed my personal best this fall-while trolling for eyes!

Our Fall Derby season was a hit for the people who got out and fished it. Challenging most anglers with not only wind and weather but changing summer to fall/winter patterns as well as a 24 hour time window along with a new point scoring system made this a tight race all the way to the final derby with Nick Markowski our first Fall Champion. Congratulations Nick!

As we all are aware of, CoVid19 has shut down our meetings so the BoD have been trying to provide Facebook live meetings to fill the void until things return back to normal (what does that even mean anymore?). December's meeting was replaced with our awards show congratulating the winners of the regular & fall derby along with our Angler of the year, Gary Lenz. We are planning on meeting this month but if we have to, we will revert back to the Facebook Live platform.

CoVid19 continued....the annual Ultimate Fishing Show has been postponed from January to March, look forward to February for more updated info.

We are planning on our annual kids ice outing at Lake St. Clair Metropark on January 31st, weather permitting....but as of this writing it does not look promising for ice. Please refer to our Facebook page or website for the latest info.

Finally, who's up for some good news? On Wednesday December 23 Jeff VanTorre, Nick Markowski and myself presented a single father of 2 with gifts, gift cards and Winter boots & clothes so that he and his children would have a nice Christmas. The father was completely overwhelmed and thankful for the generosity bestowed on his family this season. Words escaped him, as I was short on words before it is a humbling experience to say the least to be able to help someone, even people you don't know. Thank you to Jeff and Kim Jugowicz from Dick Huvaere's Richmond Dodge, Ram and Jeep for coordinating this assistance for this young family!

Let's all try to make 2021 our best year yet, this is YOUR club, be part of it!

Rich Benson, President

330 CURRENT MEMBERS

LAST MINUTE MIRACLES

By: Nick Markowski

This article will contain a recap of the 2020 Inaugural Fall Walleye Series.

My fall series started off with a slow start in the month of September catching only one fish. I caught a 19 1/2" 2.22 lbs walleye on a bandit with about an hour left in the derby. I trolled near the shipping channel in all of my previous summer spots marking a few fish here and there. Not many active ones. Good enough for 7th place. It was a tough day on the water with a horrible bite. But regardless you need points to win no matter what. One is better than none. In the second derby which was held in October I decided to use a different strategy. My game plan was to jig the Saint Clair River starting in Port Huron. I thought it would be a fool proof plan. Boy was I wrong.

Starting just before sunrise on Saturday the Jigging had begun. I noticed a few boats out and around the Black river picking up fish but needless to say I could not pull one out of the water. Around 10 a.m. I decided to make a gamble and run to Marine City to one of my favorite fishing holes. That didn't pay off and it cost a lot of time. So I had no other choice but to head towards the Black river again where I had launched and originally started fishing. I had approximately 20 minutes to fish before I had to leave or would miss the weigh in. I made one pass, got a bump and missed it! Urgh what a time crunch. I told my son we only have time to make one more pass. So we did. Last pass felt a fish inhale the bait. I couldn't have set the hook any harder praying that the fish would hold on. Finally we got one. 20 5/8" 3.30 lbs good enough for 4th place overall. Bumping me up in the standings tied for Second.

The November Derby was the only derby in 3 years where I actually went out and got my big fish right off the rip. Trolling the edges of the Delphine in muddy water I picked up a 24 1/2" 6.01 lbs walleye that was good enough for first place. It also bumped me up to first overall in the standings. Going into the December Derby it all came down to scenarios. I knew I needed a top 3 finish to guarantee me first place. There were four other phenomenal anglers that had the potential of winning it all. I felt the pressure like no other. I knew going into Friday I would only be able to fish until about midnight. Storms were heading in around then and my 16ft boat just can't handle that kind of weather nor is it safe. I had an eight hour time frame to work with. My plan was to fish the spillway all day and night. Instead I fell into the trap of fishing where every other boat was on the lake off 9 mile. Once again I started off with nothing, making a ridiculous run the wrong way towards the Delphine. That didn't work either. Along comes 730pm no fish and I need to make a decision. Stick to the plan. Across the lake to the Spillway it is. Not the run i wanted to make but the one i had to make. All or nothing at this point. 9p.m rolled around and fish on! Finally a walleye dangling by the back hook on a bandit. Never been so happy to net a fish in my life. I ended up going 1 for 4 that night but that was all I needed. Finishing 6th place in the December derby with a 22 1/2" 4.76 lbs fish. Keeping me in first overall.

four Derbys were last minute miracles. No matter what I never gave up. I never quit. I fished as long and hard as i possible could weather permitting of course. Determination, dedication and a little luck will always help win a Championship.

COLD WATER

By: Rich Benson

The past few years we have had an extended period of fall fishing for walleye from our boats, in fact into January the last two years! As the waters cool & daylight decreases, the aquatic vegetation dies off and the eyes move into winter areas, whether it be in the rivers or lakes they usually go to these areas in late fall and winter over in them until the prespawn period where thy head for their spawning grounds. What holds them in these winter areas?....food, plain and simple. For the eyes in the American waters of LSC it tends to be shad for the winter months and the western shoreline teems with them. It's not unusual to clean a walleye with 3-5 shad in it this time of year.

So knowing this, where should you begin your search? River outlets-Clinton River, the Salt River, the spillway and the Milk River along with your drains along the mile roads from the spillway all the way to the Detroit River will have shad in or near them. This is due to the runoff that has plankton and other food sources for them. Also the once nutrient-rich weed beds that were just a couple months ago prime habitat for bass & perch in the Grosse Point area hold shad through the winter months.

Baits should match the hatch as they say, Bandits in brown back khaki, fruit dots (clown/wonderbread) or white baits with orange on the bottom do fantastic as well as perch colored or gold bodied baits. DDHJ is another favorite in similar colors and patterns. The DDHJ12 is most popular of the Rapalas but I have caught quite a few this year on the 14 size.

Run your baits out to the side using planer boards, I prefer Offshore as they hold up better than the competition it seems. Speeds should be on the lower end, 1.3-1.6 mph. Bright clear days run metallic colors, mix some chrome baits in with the golds. Cloudy & low visibility days go with colors that are darker or solid colors like oranges or blues, my biggest fish came on an orange/yellow DDHJ 14 this year.

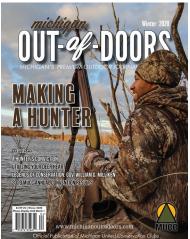
The most important thing I think I noticed this year was water clarity. Water clarity of 18" to 36" was ideal. Too clear and the walleyes become easy prey for the muskies on LSC. We moved around looking for that pale green color and the walleyes were there, every single time.

Good luck fishing! Rich

Three out of the four derbys I only boated one fish. Three out of the

MICHIGAN OUT-OF-DOORS MAGAZINE By: Tim Muir

MUCC affiliate club members are able to get Michigan out-of-doors magazine at a discounted price by being a member of the LSCWA. If you would like to sign up for the magazine for \$20 a year and are a club member please reach out to me and I will get you the information.



PRESIDENT RICH BENSON WITH A 51" 35LB+ MUSKY CAUGHT WHILE TROLLING FOR WALLEYES.

PERFECT NET JOB BY DON MURRAY!



THE DECEMBER DERBY ABOARD THE BOAT WITH MY DAD By: Rich Benson

My father and I prefished earlier in the day of fri December 11th and had setup waypoints that were 1/2 mile apart north/south and 1/4 mile east /west. It was in this small area we found a rather nice school of fish that we had caught several fish earlier in the day and we just circled around keeping them in sight on the Humminbird. At 4:45 we were in the north end of our waypoints and were forced to make a rather sharp turn, about 120 degrees to our port side and I had even called Nick Markowski on the phone as his boat was in our line of travel, I asked him to go right or left as I was really busy. He veered hard left, which gave us the room we needed to land the 4 fish that had inhaled the three lures/boards on the port side and inside lure on the starboard. The hard turn/stall triggered a bite and my father and I ended up with 4 nice eyes, all over 4 lbs with his fish tipping the scales at 5.08 and mine a respectable 6.89lbs.

At the weigh-in my father placed 4th with his fish and I took 1st, but as I was actually too busy tabulating points and congratulating Nick on his title I forgot to take pics with my fish and the owners of Anglers Point!

This fall marked the return of my father to fishing the lake after a 2 year absence due to surgeries. I felt honored to be able to take the man who, along with my mother, taught me so much in life, on the lake and in general. Hoping for many more trips with him, it's a true pleasure to continue to share the fishing traditions he instilled in me back in the 1970's.

ULTIMATE FISHING SHOW

The Ultimate fishing show that was scheduled for Jan 7th - 10th has been rescheduled for the weekend of March 25th – 28th. We are still planning on having a booth there if the show is still going to be held. Hope to see you all there.



1ST LSCWA AWARDS NIGHT By: Jeff Van Torre

This year has been a crazy one to say the least, as many of you know that have been long time members of the club, know that in December we have our annual Christmas potluck dinner and awards ceremony for our

derby season. This year we were unable to have that but in our opinion all of the Derby awards still needed to be presented to the members that placed well during this season. With that being said we came up with the idea of using our Facebook page to broadcast and hold a live awards ceremony For not only club members to see but for everybody to see what our club is about in what we as a club present to our derby winners.

We had a very good response to the live broadcast on our page, with close to 2,000 views it was a fun night to get with the winners and have a sit down interview with them about their season and their future seasons with the club.

Everyone that placed was presented a brand new AFTCO reaper jacket with their name on the front, club name on the back along with a colored walleye with the place they finished in.

Listed below are the winners in each division and also 2020 LSCWA angler of the year we will start with the open division:

OPEN DIVISION:

1st Jared Roe 2nd Nick Markowski 3rd Mike Demanski

MASTERS DIVISION:

1st Gary Lenz
2nd Eric Lenz
3rd Jeff VanTorre

2020 LSCWA ANGLER OF THE YEAR:

Gary Lenz

2020 LSCWA BIG FISH:

Jared Roe, 6.70lbs June Derby

LSCWA INAUGURAL FALL DERBY SEASON:

1st Nick Markowski
2nd Joe Julian
3rd Jeff VanTorre

If you would like to watch the presentation of our awards it is currently pinned to the top of our Facebook page.

Congratulations to everyone we looking forward to seeing everyone in April 2021 for the summer derby season.



2021 CLUB DUES

As your club membership chairperson I'm writing this article to help members keep current with their dues. This year has been a start then stop kind of year for club meetings. As a result, of this erratic on and off for scheduled meetings, members are losing track when dues expire.

At the top of your monthly newsletter is an arrow pointing to your expiration of dues for the club. This message, in the arrow is a two prong notice of expiration for derbies, and membership. The derbies notice is a reminder to be paid before the derby in that month, per derby rules. The second part of the notice is for general club dues expiring at the end of the month.

An example of the expiration information under the arrow is month, year, type of membership. Such as 02, 21, F. This translates to February, 2021, family that will expire that month.

You can renew a few different ways. One way is face to face meetings when resumed. Second, the club Facebook page, third, mailing a check to the post office. The club address is Lake St Clair Walleye association PO Box 130 St Clair Shores MI 48080. Hopefully this reminder will help members stay current with dues. Let's hope there will be face to face meetings in 2021.







FISHING REPORT (586) 777-7008

Email: info@lakesidefishingshop.com