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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION



WALLEYE WORLD

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

FEBRUARY 2024

<http://www.lscwa.net>



Lake St. Clair Walleye Association's 2024 Annual Children's Ice Fishing Event!



Michigan Free Fishing Weekend. *No License required.*

Sunday, February 18th 9am – 2pm

Registration located at Lake St Clair Metro Park (Beach), North Marine Shelter.

Free Event!

Children Learn to Ice Fish!

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

Refreshments, food, hot chocolate and more for all kids!



**MICHIGAN UNITED Since 1937
CONSERVATION CLUBS**

In partnership with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs

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 depends on acceptable ice conditions.

Cancelled

LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION

(586) 778-0480

LSCWA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Rich Benson
Vice President – Dan Schmidt
Financial Secretary – Bob Barnes
Recording Secretary – Rick Okerjhjelm
Membership Secretary – Don Murray

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023-2025	2022-2024
Richard Koch	Dr. Kirk Cleland
Jim Lease	Rob Barnes
Mike Roush	Dick Benson
Tim Muir	Mark Buckman
Tim Schwark	Pete Kohnen
Joe Gimpert	

ALTERNATES

MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS

February 21, 2024

at 7:30

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.)

EDITORS: Tim Muir & Isabelle Vanarsdale
Send articles and/or photos to editorlscwa@gmail.com

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 2024

Feb 18th Kids ice outing - CANCELLED

Feb 21st General membership meeting

Feb 22 - 25th Outdoorama

Feb 28th BOD meeting

March 20th General membership meeting

March 27th BOD meeting

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<input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizens \$30.00 Includes Spouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$45.00 Includes Spouse & Children to 16 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family \$35.00 Includes Spouse & Grandchildren to 16 years
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior \$15.00 Children up to 16 Years Old

Referred By: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

BINGO

EVERY SUNDAY

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 4 PM • Play at 6 PM

*We are always looking for volunteers.
See Rich at our meetings or events.*

Treehouse Breakfast

By Richard Koch

What a gang of seniors attending breakfast at Great Lakes Dining Restaurant. These that came in the fog are Dan Schmidt, Dave Lozier, Ralph Busch, Mark Carlson, Francis Gosiewski, John Sulkowski, Doug Batty, Bob Barnes, Dave Wilemski, Dale Billings, Curtis Patton, Ron Pisarski, Jerry Comfort, Bob Petterson, Don Murray, Joann Koch, Richard Koch. What a fabulous get together. Main topics of discussion totaled on fishing-fishing-fishing and also catching-catching-catching. Our next breakfast will be at Country inn. 35229 23 mile New Baltimore Feb. 28th. 8am



MEMBERS:

DUES MUST BE CURRENT
TO FISH ALL DERBIES!

PLEASE SEE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

350 CURRENT MEMBERS

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



"A man says a lot of things in summer he doesn't mean in winter" (Patricia Briggs).

Well, that might just hold true about this winter, or lack therefore of a winter we are currently experiencing. As of this writing we just had a cold spell and now are into a warming trend that has forced the LSCWA to cancel

our kids ice fishing event. Who knows if we will get ice again this season or if we will be in our boats shortly!

I'd like to thank John Latham for his whipping presentation last month, it was very informative and we had a lot of members who enjoyed it in person and on our Facebook live. We're looking forward to February's featured speaker Ron Almasy from Master Angler Outfitters doing a jigging presentation. Gabe Selestan is going to return to the February meeting with more on the Ultimate Walleye Derby and as a special prize, there will be a voucher for an entry ticket on the raffle table donated by The Ultimate Walleye Derby.

The St. Clair Classic is returning this year on June 8th with a \$5,000 first place prize. We are lining sponsors up for this event with commitments from Dick Huvaere's Richmond Dodge Jeep & RAM Trucks, Richmond Family Farm and Home, Hardscapes Landscaping, Alta Equipment, John Latham and more in consideration. If you or your business is interested in sponsoring this event or quite possibly sponsoring one of the fun categories we have contact any board member. Last year's smallest legal walleye was quite exciting for not only the young man who won it, but his grandfather and all those who were in the running! There will be an increase of \$25 coming to the entry fee that will be donated to the future fish cleaning station to be built at the new Clinton River Cut Off (CRCO) access site.

Speaking of the CRCO...while the DNR was finally able to open it allowing ice access, we were informed that it will be closed intermittently through the winter and spring to allow the contractor to finish work. Late again and probably blown the budget once more but there's light at the end of the tunnel, but dredging needs to be completed first. We now shift our focus on Grayhaven and getting the DNR to build what they agreed to years ago, access to lower Lake St. Clair is woefully inadequate at best.

We are always looking for ideas to improve our club, if you have suggestions or want to get involved more contact any board member.

This is YOUR club, part of it!

Rich Benson, President LSCWA

2024 Treehouse Schedule

Benvenuto's	January
Country Inn	February
Strawberry Fields.....	March
Bob Evans	April
South Side Grill	May
Ken's Country Kitchen.....	June
Dan's Diner	July
Gus's Coney Island.....	August
Leo's Coney Island	September
Apple Annie's	October
Charlie's Restaurant.....	November
Lake Breeze.....	December

Subject to Change

Keith Krych Trade A Trip

An update on the 2024 trade a trip. The date LSCWA members go to St. Joe this year will be April 13th. The date the steelheaders will be coming here is April 6th. We chose an earlier date because of the availability of the coho and king salmon at that time of year. The later in the season the farther north the fish migrate and we could wait until July and warmer weather but fish in Ludington instead of St. Joe. Hoping for good weather in both venues for sure. This year I am going to set a drop dead date of March 20th for everyone to be signed up. Last year we had several people change their minds and decide to come and getting captains was difficult to say the least. I will not accept names after the March meeting and the people who did not sign up will have to wait til next year. Planning our dinners requires an accurate count for us to buy the necessary food and arrange for enough fish for both dinners so the earlier the better. LSCWA members can sign up at our February or March meeting and the steelheaders can get ahold of Dan Foster either at their meeting or by phone. You can reach me thru the club phone just leave a message or email me at jlease357@hotmail.com. I trust with electronics the way they are today everyone will be able to make room reservations and travel plans on their own. I will get a list of captains together and put them in touch with you before the event so they can arrange with you where to meet and maybe recommend a motel near the launch site. More info will be provided at the March meeting.

Listing Of Donors To Our Club Raffle:

Grosso Trucking & Supply, monetary donation.
Rose Marine Service, monetary donation.
Hook One Bait, Tackle, Charters
Lakeside Fishing Shop
Offshore Tackle
Rob Hoover
West Marine
Richard & Joann Koch

Listing Of Businesses Selling Tickets For Our Club Raffle:

Lakeside Tackle Shop
Anglers Point- 2 stores
Sportsman Direct
Michigan Marine Sports Center, New Baltimore
Coastline Electric, Fair Haven
John's Canvas Shop, Ira Township
Rose Marine Service
Prior Plumbing, Algonac
Bracketts Auto, Algonac
West Marine, Algonac
Algonac Liquor, Algonac
Hook One, Marine City
Grosso Trucking, Marine City Hwy, Ira Township
Zimmer's Sales & Service, St. Clair Hwy, China Township

Stop by these businesses, tell them you are from the Walleye Club and thank them for their support. Then buy some tickets to show "your" support!

Thank you,
Mike Roush

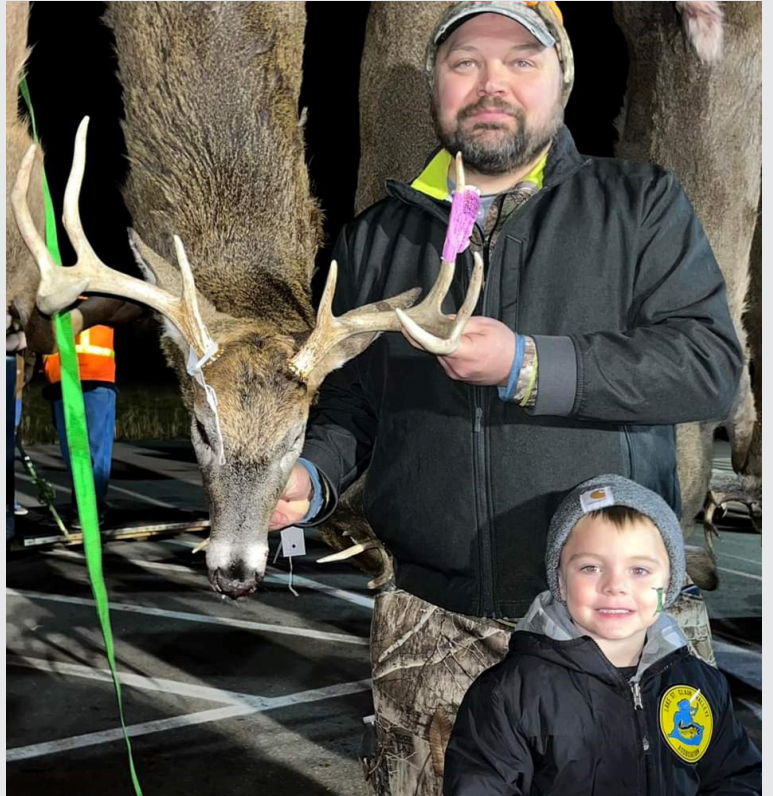
Proposed Bylaw Amendment

A proposed amendment to our bylaws in the event that there becomes a vacancy on our board of directors and there is no alternate to fill that vacancy. Its proposed that there be an emergency election held to fill that position. If a vacancy occurs then at the following membership meeting nominations will be taken, approved and discussed followed by a secret ballot to elect a new board member. If no one person accepts a nomination then the current president will appoint a board member and the membership will elect by a majority vote to accept the nomination. Notice of the election will not be required and nominees must be present to accept the nomination. The elected board member will serve on the board until the next scheduled general election is held in the prescribed manner.

Best Deer Season Ever

By Dave Filarski

The story started several years ago with many back breaking hours of timber stand improvements, creation of food plots, and making thick bedding cover. But this year, my fully wooded 20-acre parcel in Northern Calhoun County MI was finally starting to pay off with not one, but, two mature Michigan Bucks. First one was on the morning of October 28th. I was in the stand well before dawn waiting quietly for the light to penetrate the dense wood thicket. Two minutes into legal shooting time I heard and then saw a nice big 8pt walking slowly past my stand. A perfect 35 yard shot with my Ten Point Crossbow made quick work of the buck. The 2nd buck was harvested with a 350 legend the morning of November 16th. An hour or so after dawn, a doe moved past the stand. Seconds later an 18" wide big Michigan 8pt trotted up 5-yards away. My 2nd buck was on display at the Dick Huvaere's buck pole in Richmond.



Dues Increase

The annual dues for membership in the LSCWA are going up by \$5.00. This is effecting all the various membership selections. The dues are reflecting the raising costs of everything such as, stamps, paper, etc.

This notice will be in the newsletter for 2 months as the by laws require. When a change is made to a bylaw like raising the dues. A notice will be in the newsletter.

MUCC Kids Camp

This year we will be sending up to 5 kids to camp this summer. If you have child or grandchild you think might be interested in going to camp this year please see any board member at the next membership meeting. Camp will be from June 23 to the 28th.



COMFORT ZONE CHARTERS is in need of a part time 1st mate for the walleye run this April and May. You must be able to run and electric trolling motor. You get paid to go fishing!

Captain Jerry Comfort
586-482-0026 / jercomfort@aol.com

Captain Dan Serves As ‘Local Superstar’ For Over 40 Years

By: Alyssa Ochss | St. Clair Shores Sentinel |
Published January 23, 2024

ST. CLAIR SHORES — Dan Chimelak, known locally as “Captain Dan,” worked at Lakeside Fishing Shop and as a charter captain for over 40 years. He enjoyed helping people fish.

Chimelak started working at Lakeside, on Jefferson Avenue at 10 Mile Road, in 1978 as a minnow dipper. He retired from the fishing shop in 2023 due to health issues.

He said his father taught him how to fish when he was around 7 years old. His father used to fish using a method called handlining.

“He’d use a pound sinker and 20- and 30-foot leaders, and he’d always troll against the current in (the) Detroit River or up in (the) St. Clair River, and it’s a very productive way to catch walleyes,” Chimelak said. “It’s no rod and reel involved, though, and that’s the kind of fishing I really enjoy.”

When he was with his father in the shop one day, he asked the owner if he needed anyone to dip minnows and was hired at age 17. When he first took on the role, he never expected to become the owner of the fishing shop. When he was 21, he became a charter captain and he’s been a captain for around 40 years.

The name of his charter service is the “Four Seas.” Its logo includes four “Cs,” representing his wife and children.

Chimelak taught people how to fish and took them to the best fishing spots. He even participated in a once-a-year event where he taught kids with disabilities how to fish.

“Just the sense of pride my dad had in that, doing that for those kids was amazing to see and I would go out and first mate for him,” said Christine Glinski, Chimelak’s daughter.

Charter captains have to renew their licenses every five years and Chimelak said this might be his last year as his license expires.

Chimelak said when the Lakeside Fishing Shop owner wanted to get out of the business, he closed it and sold everything.

“Six of us started over again,” Chimelak said. “We built it back up to where it was.”

The number of owners dwindled due to a loss of interest and other reasons until it was just Chimelak and the current owner, Julie Beltowski, who was working as the head cashier at the time. When Chimelak retired, Beltowski bought him out.

“She’s doing a fine job keeping the store up,” Chimelak said.

Chimelak also said he started the longest-running recorded fishing report in the history of Lake St. Clair.

“It was always about Lake St. Clair primarily and I told everybody where to go catch the fish,” Chimelak said. “It

was always honest and always (as) current as I could make it.”

The fishing report tells anglers where to go to catch fish, what bait to use and even where the fish weren’t biting.

“It helped the guys just as much knowing where not to go as where to go because they’d be wasting their time if they go to the spots where there’s no action at all,” Chimelak said. “That was a real big thing, that fishing report, that was hot for years.”

In its heyday, the fishing shop received nearly 500 or 600 calls on their 14 or 15 lines during the weekend. This service was free, but Chimelak said it cost 10 cents to make the call.

“Friday night primarily was a hot night because everybody wanted to know where to go fishing for the weekend,” Chimelak said.

Chimelak said he’s seen kids grow up coming into Lakeside throughout the years. Sometimes they come back to the shop and tell him stories about their visits there.

“Guys come in all the time and say, ‘My dad brought me in here 35 years ago. You were the one that used to dip the minnows for us, and I used to go over and play in the minnow tanks,’” Chimelak said.

“Every other day somebody would come in and say that,” he said.

The shop had a lot of lifetime employees. Glinski said her father had many employees who started out as kids working for him. Some of them started out as ninth graders and when they went off to college, they’d come back and tell stories about their lives, Chimelak said.

Glinski and her sister worked in the shop when they were younger as well. She said students at school knew her dad and many other people recognized him.

“I was in the medical field, and people would be like, ‘That’s your dad that does the fishing report?’” Glinski said. “Just like he’s like the local superstar. The fishing report was his thing.”

Glinski said she’s never met a person who likes to hunt and fish as much as her dad.

“You know how they say, ‘Have a job that makes you happy?’ My dad’s job made him happy. He lived and breathed the fishing shop,” Glinski said.

Chimelak’s catch phrases at the shop were “See ya at Lakeside,” and “Keep smiling,” Glinski said.

“Dad’s a guy’s guy. If he doesn’t remember your name, you’re ‘buddy’ or ‘pal’ or ‘See ya later,’” Glinski said. “But his catchphrase is, ‘See ya at Lakeside.’ It’s always been, ‘See ya at Lakeside.’”

Chimelak said he liked the fact that he could get people to leave the technology behind and learn something new.

“Get them to learn how to do it, and they’ve got a whole life ahead of them,” Chimelak said. “Fresh air. Fresh fish. Can’t beat fresh fish.”

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