

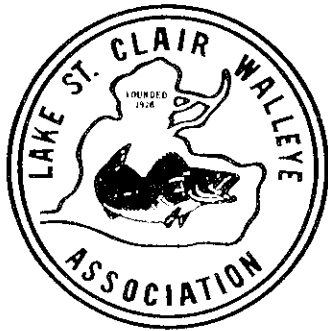
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YOUR DUFS EXPIRE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION



WALLEYE WORLD

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF MICHIGAN'S WALLEYE FISHERY

FEBRUARY, 2006

<http://www.lakestclairwalleyeassociation.com>

TRADE-A-TRIP 2006

by Ray Kalisz

One or two other board members and myself will be going over to the Battle Creek Steelheaders meeting in March. We will be showing a tape on Walleye fishing and promoting our side of the state for the upcoming Trade-A-Trip. At this time we will talk about dates for the trip.

Anyone with any new ideas for the two Trade-A-Trips please contact me before the March meeting. Call me at (810) 989-9707.

We will push for a May 5, 6, and 7 weekend for the Steelheaders to come over here. The fish-fry would be on May 6th. We would like to show them 5 to 8 lb Walleye to take home. If the date is changed for them to come over here in May I need people to sign up their boats.

NEW MEMBER

Mike Colombo is the latest member to join the club. Hopefully, we did not forget anyone. A very warm and heartfelt welcome is extended to all of the people who have joined this past year.

ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Bob Payne

It is that time of year again when we have our annual blood drive. This drive was started a few years ago to help our fellow member, Nate Scharff, who needed frequent blood transfusions. Nate has since passed away but we continue this event in his memory. To make this an even more productive event we have joined with other organizations that will donate at the same time.

The drive will be held at our regular meeting place, Eagles Hall # 2495, January 28, 2006 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The drive will be conducted by The American Red Cross and they will also be accepting cash donations. There will be food served for all involved (a step up from juice and cookies). If you can't donate blood, come down and help with the food or other jobs if you can.

If you plan to donate blood, please call and make an appointment with Bob and Shelby Brethauer: Work (313) 366-2600 Home (586) 783-2232. Appointments are not necessary but would be appreciated.

So please come down and donate your blood or your time. Donating is completely safe and you may help save someone's life. Relax on the cot, stare at the ceiling for a few minutes and have lunch with your friends. THANKS!

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THE ART OF WHIP FISHING

by Dave Marcelewski

Whip fishing is one of the simplest ways of fishing for walleye. The definition of whip fishing is: Anchoring your boat upstream from a school of fish, and dropping your bait downstream into the school of fish.

This has to be one of the most productive ways of early season walleye fishing. A well known local and retired walleye guide, Capt. Hank Bradley once said, "If you anchor in 18 to 21 feet of water anywhere in the St. Clair River, you will catch walleye." I find this statement very true.

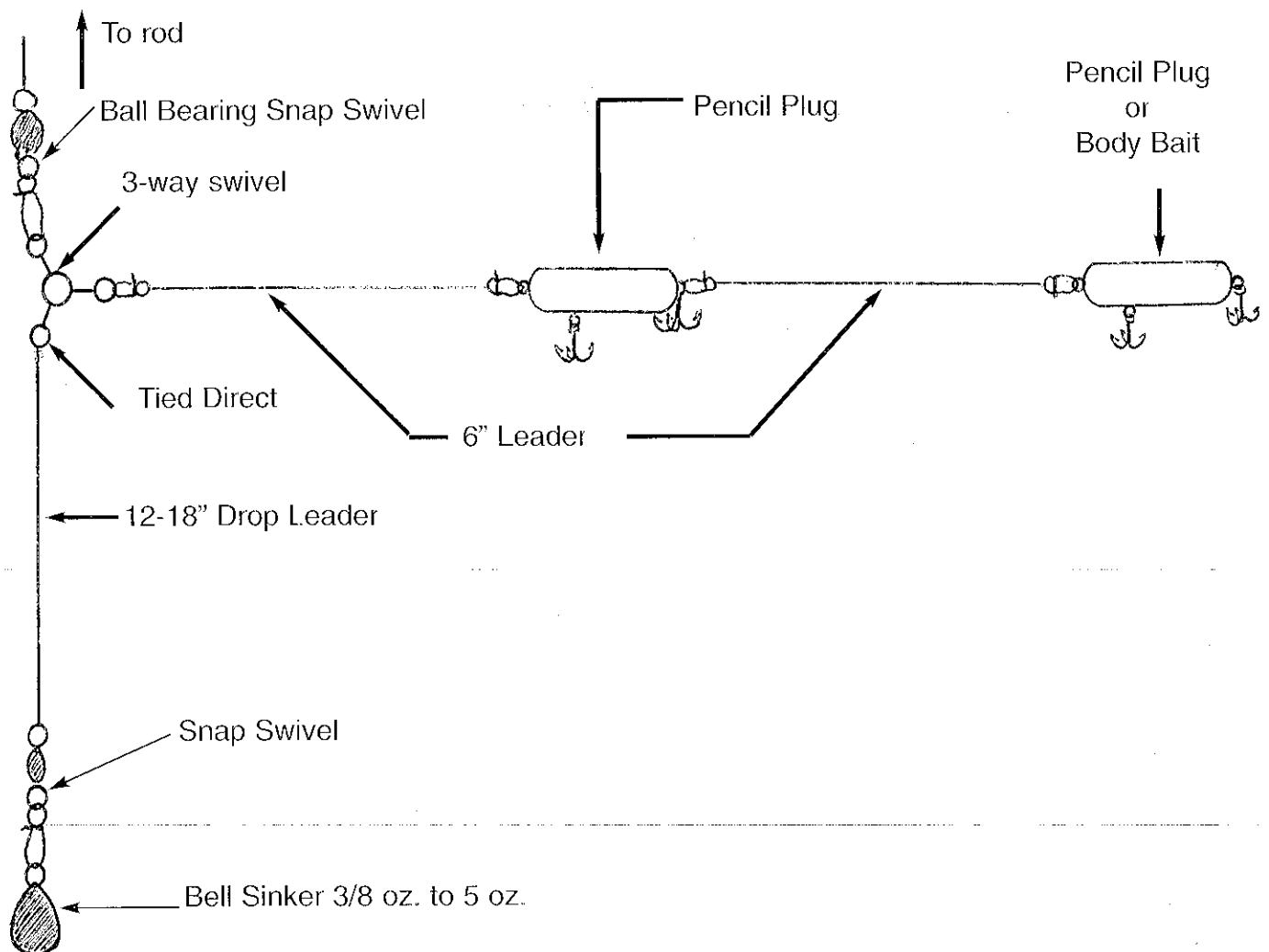
However, I have anchored in water up to 25 or 26 feet deep and done very well. All the people I know that whip fish do it in the St. Clair River. I don't know why anyone doesn't fish this method in the Detroit River. They simply do not, but I'm sure it would work

there also.

The equipment used to fish this method is very basic. You need a short stout rod equipped with a level wind reel. Any brand rod will work, but the favorite brand level wind reels are Penn reels and Abu Garcia Ambassador reels. The reels need to be wound with 20lb. to 30 lb. test braided line. This line gives no stretch so you can feel even the slightest bite. Very large walleyes sometimes bite like a small panfish. I always put a quality ball-bearing snap swivel on the end of the line, as this will prevent any line twist.

The favorite bait of whip fishermen is the pencil plug. Rapallas, Bombers, and other floating body baits are also used and work well.

Here is the setup that goes on the end of your line.



I use 6 foot leaders on the lures. The leaders on the lures are tied from 30lb. test Trilene Big Game monofilament line. I use only wire snaps without swivels on both ends of the leaders. The lures are rigged piggy back style.

The first leader is clipped to the 3-way swivel, and the other end of the leader is clipped to the front of the lure. The next leader is clipped to the back eyelet that holds the rear hook on the first lure. The other lure is clipped to the other end of the second leader.

The drop lead that goes to the sinker is 12" in the early spring with a snap swivel on the end. It is tied with a lighter pound test line. This is so if your sinker gets snagged, you will not lose all your lures.

As the weed growth starts on the bottom of the river, the drop lead gets longer. It may get as long as 18 inches. This keeps your lures just above the weeds.

The sinkers used are always bell type sinkers. The weight of the sinkers vary by how deep of water you are fishing, and the amount of current at each fishing spot. I have used sinkers as little as 3/8ths of an ounce, up to a 4 or 5 ounce sinker. The deeper the water and the more current you are fishing, the heavier of a sinker you use. You want to use the lightest sinker you can, that will still get you down to the fish.

Now that you have your boat anchored and your rod rigged, you can begin to fish. You begin by putting your lures into the water starting with the second lure. Then you put the first lure in the water, making sure the leaders are not tangled. Drop your sinker into the water. Keep your thumb on the spool on the reel, and release the line, SLOWLY. This will prevent any tangles.

Work your rod up and down and let out 6 or 8 feet of line out a little at a time. You keep doing this until you feel the thump of your sinker hitting the bottom. Once you reach the bottom with the sinker, you work the rod to put action in your lures. You always want to feel the thump of the sinker on the bottom when you drop the line back.

You work this area downstream of you and try to get an active fish to bite. If you don't get any bites, let out some more line. Maybe 15 feet of line or so. But let it out slowly. Then when you feel the sinker thumping the bottom again, you work your lures in this area of the river bottom. Keep doing this until you get the fish to bite.

When you get a bite, don't be shy setting the hook. I give it a good yank to set the hook. Make sure you have your drag set and never horse in a fish. Let him run and work him up to the boat.

We have also caught the odd King Salmon and

Steelhead using this method. So, be prepared. Always keep your outboard motor in gear even though the engine is off. This will prevent the propeller from spinning. If your line gets into the prop, the prop will not turn and spin your line around the prop shaft. This has happened to me and I learned a good lesson from it.

Remember that you are anchored with your engine off and in gear. You can use your outboard motor as a rudder to move your boat into or away from the shore. You can work your lures up and down the dropoffs this way, covering a little more river bottom and letting more fish see your lures.

I forgot to mention that this is strictly night fishing. The best thing to do is to get anchored and set up just before dark. You can fish till you are either tired, or you limit out. I hope this fishing method is as productive for you as it has been for me.

Good Luck Fishing.

(Editor's Note: For more details or if you have questions see Dave at the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association meetings.)

THE ULTIMATE FISHING SHOW

The LSCWA will have a table set up at this year's show. There is still time for members to volunteer to help out (which will get you free admission to this big fishing show). Call the club hot-line at the phone number on the front page of the newsletter. Leave a message and Bob Galvin will get back to you to make arrangements. Remember, the show starts on January 12th.

JANUARY MEETING

This month the seminar will be on Ice Fishing. Steve Beasley will give tips on the best techniques and equipment. Everyone who is new to this winter fishing should make plans to be there.

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KID'S ICE OUTING

The date is set and it is February 19th. We will be setting up in the parking lot of Jiggers in Fair Haven right on Anchor Bay. The starting time looks like it will be 10 in the morning and fishing will be until early afternoon. Then, everyone gets together under the big tent for hot chocolate, chili, and hot dogs with the fixings. Prizes and gifts will be given to all the kids who attend.

Members will be on hand to take people out on to the ice using their 4-wheelers or snowmobiles. People and equipment will ride out on the sleds being towed. Holes through the ice will be made and there will be some ice fishing shantys available.

Kids and adults enjoy watching the fish through the ice. This is easy to do when inside a shanty. Inside it is dark but the light shining through the ice on the bay lights up the inside from the bottom. Some people have compared this experience to watching real life TV.

If any member can help out with a 4-Wheeler, snowmobile, or sled, or can provide a shanty or ice auger let us know.

Those who have never ice fished or do not have equipment for their kids do not need to worry. We will have equipment, bait, and a coach for every one new to this fast growing winter funtime activity.

ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT

Coming up in early February is the annual Jigger's Ice Tournament. It will take place from February 11th to the 12th. The weigh-in will be on Sunday, the 12th, and will be one hour from 3 to 4 in the afternoon. Prizes will be awarded for Biggest Walleye, Perch, and Pike. Sign-up sheets and a brochure will be available at the upcoming meeting.

BATTERY REMINDER

Many of us have batteries just for our boats and the electronics we use during the soft water fishing seasons. The modern batteries are much better than the ones we would have used even 10 years ago. But, our new batteries still need some care in the winter. Take a mid-winter break from ice fishing or watching TV to check the battery situation.

If the battery is not a Maintenance Free style then add some distilled water to it now. Check each cell and make sure that the water level is above the plates. Then get out the trickle charger and slowly top off each battery you have.

Some people do recommend a monthly battery top off to maintain a full charge. Doing this in the off season will help to prevent a premature failure, and we all know that this will take place at the dock after the boat has been put in the water. Even worse is a dead starter battery while out in the middle of the lake.

CLUB WEB SITE

<http://www.lakeclairwalleyeassociation.com>

by Alex Vitek

The club's web site is up and running. Some members mentioned that there is nothing new on it. But, there are changes now and more planned. Bob Barnes, the club web site director, has put up pictures from the Kid's Christmas Party. He also tries to put a copy of the current club newsletter on the web site.

If visitors look around they will notice a column on the left side. One of the items is "Photo Gallery". Clicking on that will show them how to access pictures from several club events from the last 2 years.

Club members can put up a classified ad for equipment they might have for sale. Click on the small button which says "View My Classifieds".

We have switched over to new software for the Message Board. To get to it just click the link. The Message Board is a system of posting messages. Anyone can use it. Click on a message topic and it opens up. Follow the thread from the first message to the last.

In order to post a message on the board the user does have to be registered with the software. Then, just login with your chosen user name and password. Remember your password and username.

Since the middle of December the active topics have been about ice fishing. Find out where the current hot-spots are. Find out what the ice conditions are. It is all there and sometimes we might even give away the secret on the best lure or bait.

Over the last month Bob and I put a couple of new areas for discussion on the club's Message Board. Maybe there is something that will be of interest. Stop by and take a look.

WEATHER FORECASTING

by Alex Vitek

They came from the early settlers of the Blue Ridge and Appachalin Mountains. I guess you could say they came from the original hillbillies.

- * Wild hogs gather sticks, straw, and shucks to make a bed
- * Animals grow a short fuzzy coat under their regular one
- * Hoot owls call late in the fall
- * Screech owls sound like women crying
- * If it snows crosslegged it will be a deep one
- * If the first snow stays on the ground for three days, another snow will come to top it
- * If it frosts before Nov,23 it will be a bad winter
- * Hickory nuts have a heavy shell
- * Theres a heavy crop of berries, acorns, and pinecones
- * Bark on trees is thicker
- * Tree bark is heaviest on the north side
- * Corn shucks and silk grown thicker, and the shucks grow togther, around, and further over the ends of the ears



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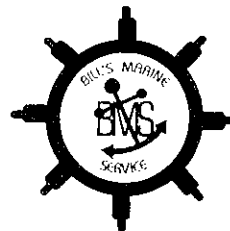
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