



# WALLEYE WORLD

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

JANUARY 2026

<http://www.lscwa.net>

## Fishing with Fellow LSCWA Members

Dear LSCWA Community,

Over the past few years, I've had the pleasure of fishing alongside many fellow members of the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association—and I couldn't be more grateful. Being part of this club has opened doors I never knew existed. While I've spent my life fishing on Lake St. Clair, the techniques, insights, and camaraderie I've gained through LSCWA have truly elevated my experience.

From guest speakers to seasoned board members, the knowledge shared within our club has helped me become a better angler. Every outing with an LSCWA member—whether on my boat or theirs—is an opportunity to learn something new, swap stories, and build lasting friendships.

If you're new to the club or haven't yet joined a club member on a fishing trip, I encourage you to get involved. Ask questions, share your experiences, and don't hesitate to reach out. You might be surprised by how much you'll learn—and by how many great people you'll meet along the way.

Beyond the fishing itself, being part of LSCWA has deepened my appreciation for giving back to both the community and the outdoors. It's more than a hobby, it's a way to connect, grow, and contribute.

Tight lines and warm regards,  
Pete



Membership  
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## LSCWA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Rich Benson  
Vice President – Dan Schmidt  
Financial Secretary – Bob Barnes  
Recording Secretary – Nancy Kohnen  
Membership Secretary – Don Murray

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025-2027	2024-2026
Richard Koch	John Dolney
Joe Gimpert	Pete Aleccia
Mike Roush	Dick Benson
	Mark Buckman
	Pete Kohnen

## ALTERNATES

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS January 21, 2026 at 7:30

American Legion Post 4  
401 N Groesbeck Hwy, Mt Clemens, MI 48043

Log onto our website to find out what  
is happening in and around the Club  
**[www.lscwa.net](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2026

January 8-11 ..... Ultimate Fishing Show  
January 21st ..... General Membership meeting  
January 28th ..... BOD meeting  
February 1st ..... Kids ice outing  
February 18th ..... General Membership meeting  
February 25th ..... BOD Meeting  
March 18th ..... General Membership Meeting  
March 25th ..... BOD meeting

## LSCWA 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.

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# BINGO

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

## Treehouse Breakfast

By Richard Koch

What a blustery morning at Travis Restaurant for breakfast with 25 degree temperature and 35 mile an hour winds. Those who attended were Dale Billings, Rob Kennedy, Mark Carlson, Ron Pisarski, Bob Barnes, Jim Lease, Pete Aleccia, Bob Peterson, Joann Koch, and Richard Koch. Topics of discussion were all about ice fishing. Next breakfast will be at Great Lakes Diner 26830 Harper 8am Jan 28th.

Bring your appetite.



## 300 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.*

### MEMBERS:

DUES MUST BE CURRENT  
TO FISH ALL DERBIES!

PLEASE SEE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



## President's Corner

Another New Year is upon us, out with the old and in with the new, we're talking fishing gear right? You can find just about anything you're looking for at the upcoming Ultimate Fishing at the Suburban Collection Showcase

in Novi, MI. Some of our local tackle shops will be there offering great deals on everything from hooks all the way up to top of the line electronics. Rose Marine can put you in a new Lund or Yar Craft to hit the tournament trail or just go perching if that's your game. Check them out and more starting January 8th-11th.

The upcoming months we have a couple of very interesting speakers scheduled for our meetings. In January we will be discussing invasive species of the Great Lakes, their impact and what we can on our part. Skipping ahead to March, local pro, Captain and lure innovator Jon Bondy pays the club a visit to get us excited for the coming spring run. Expect a night of great info and Bondy products.

There's a lot coming this year and as I always close with, this YOUR club be part of it. I say this hoping to get people to step forward and lend a hand, meet some of the other members, maybe make a new fishing partner or learn something new.

Rich Benson, President LSCWA

## 2026 TREEHOUSE BREAKFAST SCHEDULE

Great Lakes Dining .....	36830 Harper Ave. 8am Jan 28th
Country Inn.....	35329 23 Mile 8am Feb 25th
Strawberry Fields.....	51070 Foster And 23 Mile 8am March 25th
Bob Evans.....	45140 Corners Ct Hall Road 8am April 22nd
James Bridgeview Bistro .....	28409 South River Road 8am May 27th
Dan's Diner .....	24820 Hoover 8am June 24th
Gus's Coney Island .....	50899 Gratiot 8am July 22nd
Leo's Coney Island.....	23815 Jefferson & 9 Mile 8am Aug 26th
Copper Penny .....	24975 Harper 8am Sept 23rd
Charlie's .....	22315 Harper 8am Oct 28th
Lake Breeze.....	35450 Jefferson 8am Nov 25th
Travis Restaurant.....	34400 Harper 8am Dec 28th

# You Can Never Be Too Soft:

## Fishing 411 TV Blog

By Mark Romanack



When it comes to soft plastics, softer is better. The softer these lures become, the more natural they feel to the fish, the better action they deliver and the more bites they produce.

The problem with most soft plastics is not that they don't catch fish, it's that they only catch a fish or two before ripping,

tearing or otherwise getting damaged beyond repair.

If you are one of those anglers who routinely fishes soft plastics I'm betting at the end of the day you also have piles of ripped and torn plastics to discard. The cost of these soft lures can become staggering.

### THE SOFT AND STRONG TYPE

Until the introduction of ElaZtech from Z-Man, there was no such thing as soft plastics that are both soft and strong. ElaZtech is a unique type of soft plastic that is exceptionally soft and ultra stretchy. This unique combination creates a soft plastic fishing lure that can be used over and over again without tearing or ripping. A bag of ElaZtech plastic will out last several bags of the other brands and even better this stuff catches fish.

Z-Man offers all the popular styles of soft plastics in ElaZtech including worms, grubs, flukes, craws, creatures, paddle tail grubs, split tail minnows, tubes and finesse baits. Even when fishing toothy critters like northern pike, these baits hold up amazingly well.

### SCENTED PLASTICS

Some of our favorite Z-Man products are those that come factory impregnated with Pro Cure Super Gel a natural fishing scent made from real baitfish. The PaddlerZ and ShadZ have become staples for jig fishing walleye, smallmouth bass and lake trout.

The natural scent stream these baits create lasts 30 to 40 minutes. The baits themselves last a lot longer than that! We routinely re-apply Pro Cure Super Gel to our Z-Man plastics about every half hour.

### BASS AND SALTWATER

While it's obvious that Z-Man markets their products primarily to bass anglers and also near shore saltwater fishermen, these plastics are just as deadly on Great Lakes species including walleye, northern

pike, musky, panfish, lake trout, browns and salmon.

### FAVORITE PRESENTATIONS

In the last few years we have identified several Z-Man products that have become "regulars" in our bag of tricks. For jigging river walleye the 4 inch PaddlerZ has become one of our "go to" favorites on the Detroit River and also the St. Clair River. This paddle-tail has just the right amount of thump for triggering strikes from active fish.

When the walleye seemingly have lock jaw, we switch to the Jerk ShadZ and it's game on. The best jigging stroke for the Jerk ShadZ is something we call "tight line jigging" and it involves lifting and dropping the bait so slowly that no slack occurs in the line.

For pitching jigs and swimsuits to summer time walleye, the five and six inch SwimmerZ is perfect when matched up with 1/2, 3/4 and even one ounce jigs. The key is to use heavy jigs that can be fished quickly and in deeper water. Typically we make a long cast, let the jig and grub settle to bottom and then employ a slow and steady retrieve that keeps the bait close to bottom.

For monster lake trout we have taken some amazing fish jigging with Mag SwimZ an eight inch paddle tail that drives trout crazy. This bait works both for vertical jigging and also for making long casts and slowly retrieving back to the boat.

In the spring of the year when pike are up in the shallow weeds, the Scented Jerk Shad in the seven inch size is perfect for fishing Texas rigged with no weight. This set up can be fished in the thickest salad without hang-ups and pike crush these things.

For summer smallmouth we gravitate towards drop shot fishing using the Finesse TRD. This set up puts so many fish in the boat we rarely need to fish anything else.

We have even found a soft plastics that work wonders ice fishing. The Trick ShotZ 3.5 inch and also the Swimmin' Trout Trick are deadly effective when jigging for whitefish. Both of these plastics do a great job of imitating round goby that make up the majority of the winter diet for whitefish. The trick is to bounce these plastics on the bottom, then dead stick them. The bite is little more than a sensation of weight, but lake whitefish can't help themselves.

### WRAPPING IT UP

In the world of soft plastics pretty much everyone agrees that softer is better. The problem with most plastics is they are so soft they are easily damaged after just one or two fish. Z-Man's ElaZtech is different and if you haven't tried these baits you will be amazed how soft and durable a soft plastic can be.

# College Scholarships 2026

By Bob Barnes

I am pleased to announce that the Lake St Clair Walleye Association will be awarding college scholarships again this year. This will be the eleventh year for the scholarships.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded. The club believes in giving back to the community and there is no better way than to help our young adults pursue higher education. Plans are to award a scholarship for fishing and wildlife studies and for general education.

Applications are available on our website LSCWA.NET. Applications are due August 1, 2026 and will be awarded at the August 19, 2026 general membership meeting.

This is one of many reasons I am proud to be a member of the Lake St Clair Walleye Association.

## Masters Division

By Don Murray

A new addition to the Masters Division is Greg Milbreath, with 12 points earned in the open division for 2025. I apologize to Greg for not recognizing him with the move to the master's 2026 division at the Christmas party. Greg will be getting the 2025 masters chevron and ready to fish in the master's 2026 division.

## LSCWA Proposed By Law Changes

Revisions 7/23/25 pending approval.

**Article 1 Sec 3:** Removed and shall be the custodian of the Club seal.

**Article 1 Sec 4:** Removed: In addition, the Treasurer must provide the same for a quarterly audit.

**Article 3 Sec 1:** Removed: Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) membership, National Wildlife Federation (NWF) affiliation, Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers (OFHA) affiliation. MUCC Michigan Out-of-Doors magazine.

## LSCWA Raffle Time

Our club raffle honoring Ron Sharp is upon us again. John Marconi (and Debbi) and I have been working hard to make this raffle appealing to everyone. This year as last year there will be a choice of five prize packages. As last year the first ticket drawn will get their choice of prizes, the second ticket drawn gets their choice of one of the four remaining prizes and so on until five tickets have been drawn.

Subsequent winners will make their choice of prize after previous winner(s) have made their choice. Winners will be notified by the raffle committee via phone call.

Drawing will take place at the L.S.C.W.A. Picnic on August 23, 2026.

In addition, everyone that sells or buys 10 tickets will get a chance to win \$100 for each 10 tickets they sell or buy.

### Prize packages are:

1. Fishing package (St Croix Rod/reel) Jig box/ Jigs, plastics, stinger hooks, ranger net, Engel Cooler, Lake Side Fishing Shop \$75.00 gift certificate. Total \$650 value.
2. Eats, Sweets & Treats: Gift cards for the following: Griffin (Upscale steakhouse in Fair Haven) - \$200, The Little Bar in Marine City - \$50, The Sweet Tooth (in Marine City - Candy/ Ice Cream Shop) - \$50, 2 Tickets for Thumb Coast Theater (Marine City - St. Clair) - \$78. Total \$463 Value.
3. Rose Marine Maintenance Package: Boat/ Motor Maintenance \$250 Value
4. Coast Line Electric Maintenance Package: Bow or transom electric motor work - \$150 Value
5. Fishing Charter: Sweet Water Charter with Capt. Don Murray. Five hour charter, up to four people. \$500 Value

Tickets and posters will be placed at various boating and tackle shops and other businesses in the area.

### Remember...

This is **your** club, support it as best you can!





# Lake St. Clair Walleye Association's 2026 Annual Children's Ice Fishing Event!



**Sunday, February 1st 9am – 1pm**

Registration located at Lake St Clair Metro Park (Metro Beach), Seawall Shelter the day of the event.

Free Event!

Children Learn to Ice Fish!

Free ice fishing rod to each child. Bait will be provided.

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

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



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. Please check Facebook or our website for updates

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