

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



# WALLEYE WORLD

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

January 2018

<http://www.lscwa.net>

## Just what is the LSCWA and what do they do?

*By Rich Benson*

In 1976 a group of concerned anglers got together to combat the problem of the commercial fishing on Lake St. Clair. After more pressure from other MUCC groups, local politicians and help from our Canadian neighbors on their side of the lake, commercial fishing ended. We have since shifted our focus on protecting, preserving and promoting one of the greatest fishing spots in the world, Lake St. Clair.

What do we do?...

We have raised nearly 4 million walleye fry for planting in local lakes for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on our rearing ponds at Selfridge ANG base.

Every year we send kids to MUCC's Summer Camp at Cedar Lake, in 2016 we sent 8, last year we sent 12! This year we are looking forward to again offer the great outdoor experience of summer to camp to our member's kids.

Free seminars at our monthly meetings. Local, master fisherman give free seminars customized for fishing the local rivers and lakes, helping you to catch more fish during your time on the water.

Along with teaching you fishing, we also are looking out for our future generations by offering \$1000 in scholarship money each year to first year college students of club members.

Service to the community, in 2016 we took the lead in getting the fish cleaning station in St. Clair back in operation through a fish fry to raise funds and also making a donation to get it repaired and functioning.

Derbies and tournaments, we have a club derby season that currently runs from April to August. It is open to all members in good standing with youth, open and master divisions. The derbies are usually held at our sponsoring bait shops with food and refreshments served during the weigh ins. Our tournaments are growing, we had May Madness 3 this past year with 42 boats entered vying for a top prize of \$5,000--- not a bad payoff for a good day of fishing! The perch and pig in the fall is another tournament that is also growing. In October we have 19 boat's entered for a top prize of nearly \$1,000 for the heaviest catch of 25 yellow perch!

We also hold free kids summer and winter ice fishing outings (safe ice permitting) with bait, poles and food and refreshments provided to all. Furthermore, we donate to local charities and food banks, as we have always felt the need to help out our community on and off the water.

There's plenty of other activities and events we participate in on both large and small scale, including professional fishing events!

Why not check us out sometime?

I always close my president's corner with the line

"This is YOUR club, be part of it"

Maybe you can find a part of our club to belong to.

Thank you,  
Rich Benson, President, LSCWA

LAKE ST. CLAIR WALLEYE ASSOCIATION

(586) 778-0480

## LSCWA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Richard Benson  
Vice President – Tim Muir  
Financial Secretary – Bob Barnes  
Recording Secretary – Rick Okerhjelm  
Membership Secretary – Don Murray

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2016-2018	2017-2019
Jim Lease	Eric Lenz
Mike Smith	Mike Demanski
Steve Sharon	Rob Barnes
Jeff VanTorre	Richard Koch
	Shawn Elliott
	Charles Henderson

## ALTERNATES

John Roodbeen Dan Schmidt

**Field Rep** – Tim Muir

**Field Advisor** – Stan Bydlos

**Merchandise** – Mike Smith

**Derby Weigh-Ins** – Don Murray

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**WEDNESDAY ~ 7:30 P.M.**

**JANUARY 17, 2018**

**FOR ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING**

(Walk-ins Welcome)

**AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 4**

401 Groesbeck Hwy. | Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

586-840-7582

**Next Reg. Meeting: February 21, 2018**

**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:** Tim Muir. Send articles 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

Jan. 11th-14th.....Ultimate Fishing Show - Novi

Jan 17th.....General Membership Meeting

Jan 23rd.....Board of Directors Meeting

Jan. 27th.....Cold as Ice Fishing Tournament

Jan. 28th.....LSCWA Kids Ice Outing

Feb 21st.....General Membership Meeting

## CUT OUT COUPON & MAIL

### APPLICATION FORM AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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Includes Spouse

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Children up to 16 Years Old

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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

## Sundays

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

## First Ever Ice Fishing Swap Meet

*by Steve Sharon*

I had an idea - why not add a LSCWA Ice Fishing Swap Meet to our yearly calendar. Our annual spring swap meet has always been very successful and attracts many new and potential members. Adding an ice fishing swap would allow many of us to sell off our new or unused ice fishing equipment to other fishermen in need. After discussing this issue our board of directors liked the idea and agreed to proceed with its implementation.

Even though this event has short notice I believe it can be a very successful winter event for our club.

The swap meet will occur on Wednesday, January 17th at 7:30 pm which is also our first meeting of 2018.

I would suggest arriving early around 6:30 pm to set up because some early bird customers will arrive at 7:00 pm to score the best buys.

The swap shop will be located in the lower level so as not to disturb the regular meeting. If you only have a few items to sell please share a table so that everybody will have a space. As always, if you only have one or two items they can be placed on your table upstairs on the main floor as long as you don't interrupt the meeting.

So go to your garage, barn, basement and closets find this stuff and bring it in because nothing is ruled out. If you have a shanty there may be room in the lobby to display it and if you have an ATV or sled bring a picture with its description and price.

Hope to see you all there and participating. Let this stuff make you some \$\$\$ instead of DUST!

## President's Corner

*by Richard Benson*



Happy New Year!....and what a heck of a year we are looking forward to with the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association. We're going to start things off in Novi at the Ultimate Fishing Show as we have done for quite a few years now and getting the word out about the LSCWA. Next will be our first general membership meeting on January 17th with a great ice fishing seminar. Then comes our first two fishing outings of the year, Cold as Ice with WCSX on January 27th and our own kids ice fishing outing on January 28th. Both events will be held in the day sail launch area of Lake St. Clair Metropark (weather permitting). WCSX is organizing the Cold as Ice event with details on their website. The LSCWA kids ice outing is going to start at 9am, with people both on and off the ice helping to teach the kids ice fishing, drilling holes, providing bait and poles with a free hot lunch and beverages provided by the LSCWA. If you would like to donate your time or anything to help this event become even more of a success contact any board member or email the editor of the Walleye World.

Now, that's just January!....we will be expanding our derby season this year, making May Madness even bigger and doing even more to help out the MUCC kids camp as well as having more seminars free of charge to all of our members.

It's going to be a great year, with a lot of big events, get involved!

This is YOUR club, be part of.  
Rich Benson, President LSCWA



**Here is our kids summer outing big fish winner, Nick with the biggest fish caught at our summer outing. A nice sheephead.**



## 2017 year end review from LSCWA first year board member Eric Lenz

What an outstanding year to call Lake St Clair your home body of water. Weather you jig, troll, whip, cast or Handline Lake St. Clair was good to its anglers all over the lake and channels. It was a great year for trophy fish and fish fries with countless 6 and 7 pound fish along with a very healthy population and big numbers of 17-21 inch fish which give a positive outlook for the years to come.

The 2017 derby season was nothing short of amazing for not only myself personally but other club members. In my first full season fishing the LSCWA Derbys I was fortunate enough to lead the point standings for the open division which allowed me to move into the masters division for the 2018 season. The LSCWA awards the winner of the open division and masters division an embroidered coat which is awarded at the annual LSCWA Christmas party to not only be worn on the water but to further the friendly bragging rights we share amongst one another. Although prior work obligations prevented me from attending and accepting my award I was fortunate enough to have my life long mentor and fishing partner, my father Gary Lenz accept it for me. I can't tell you enough what spending those Derby weekends on the water together means to us both. Of course we all want to be the ones holding the trophy's and awards at the end of the day however if you ask any of our members it's the time spent together with friends, family and other club members on and off the water that is truly memorable.

The monthly Derbys consist of 3 divisions masters, open and youth. Although the participation in has a good turnout we encourage more members to bring along a niece, nephew, son or daughter to further along the future of our club and local Walleye conservation. In this day and age where computers and video games are king the valuable time spent together in the great outdoors can have a lasting effect in our loved ones, their future and respect and understanding of our natural resources. I as well as the rest of the LSCWA members look forward to the 2018 Derby season and meeting and competing against New as well as familiar faces. The Monthly Derbys are the 3rd weekend of each month following the monthly membership meetings.



**246 CURRENT MEMBERS**

## Holiday Joy

by Bob Barnes

I trust we all had a happy and safe holiday and Santa was good to all of you. I did not get the new Ranger on my list, but I did not get a lump of coal so life is good!

One of my favorite things about the holiday season is giving. One of our most giving partners is Lakeside Fishing Shop. They support our kid's outings both summer, winter, and supply the club with discounts on merchandise.



This year the board of directions decided to purchase merchandise from Lakeside for the raffle tables for the year as a thank you for their support. This comes at a good time for Lake Side as this is a slow time of year for them. Get on down to Lakeside and pick up a few items for ice fishing, the spring bite or any of your other fishing needs. Show them your Lake St Clair Walleye Association membership card and you will receive an additional discount.

Happy New Year to all. May 2018 bring Joy, peace and a 10-pound walleye in April.

Fish on...

### Fishing Facts



### Fishing Facts

Walleye have very well-defined sharp canine teeth on their jaws and on the roof of their mouths. They have large almost oversized eyes that seem to glow in the dark. These allow them to hunt at night, and walleye are mainly a nocturnal predator.



# December Lake Erie Trolling

by Rob Barnes

As 2017 came to a close I knew my open water fishing opportunities would be dwindling. So on December 2nd I decided I needed to get out and troll Lake Erie's Michigan waters. At the time I had not fished on Lake Erie Michigan Waters in over 15 years. This would be my first time being out on Lake Erie running my own boat. I gave my buddy Dan Stewart a call to join me and he was fired up to get after the walleyes. We launched out of Sterling State Park and began our troll in Brest Bay south of Stony Point after marking suspended fish. Water surface temperatures were a frigid 40 degrees. We pulled Smithwick Perfect 10s, Bandit Deep Walleyes, and Rapala DDHJ12s at a slow crawl of 1.3 MPH SOG. I used my electric MotorGuide trolling motor to stealthfully glide during each of my trolling passes. Nothing was happening where we started so we picked up and motored 4 miles Northeast of the bay in search of pods of fish and warmer water. We were able to find a patch of 43-degree water and fish scattered throughout the water column. Time to set lines. Not shortly after we had our first board rip back and we were hooked up on walleyes. A Smithwick Perfect 10 in cheap sunglasses pulled 65 feet behind the planer board took our first fish. The next fish would fall to a Blue/Chrome/Orange Perfect 10. We continued working this pod of fish by spreading baits throughout the water column. Bandits 55 feet back started taking fish with colors IB Frozen and Black/Gold/Orange doing the most damage. We also ran one of John Latham's custom Pink Vampire DDHJ12s with a 2oz snap weight to pull in some of the larger fish hugging closer to the bottom. To end the day, we closed the deal on a triple header of walleyes to boat our 2-man limit. What a great way to become reacquainted with Michigan's slice of Lake Erie. After 15 years of not fishing this area, I could not have enjoyed this much success on Lake Erie without absorbing all the knowledge I could from fellow anglers in the LSCWA. It pays to be a member.



# Across the Pond

by Eric Lenz



Starting in 2018 Walleye World will be bringing back a new spin on an old idea of tapping into our friends on the Canadian side of LSC with a segment called "Across the Pond" presented by Canadian coast guard member and successful owner/operator of Pond predator charters captain Nick Oberemok. Nick is a near daily fisherman offering spring jigging and handlining for Walleye, summer trolling for musky and Walleye and fall and winter perch and Walleye. The focus on this segment is to keep us guys on the American side up to date with the latest local regulation changes, important date reminders, Lake and access conditions, followed by the most recent Fishing reports to prepare you for next trip to the Canadian side weather it be during hard or soft water. Reminder that Canadian fishing license expire December 31st. Captain Nick reports as anglers are now starting to get out to some of their favorite spots out of St Luke's marina and Mitchell's bay that ice and water clarity are ideal with 8-9 inches of good clear safe ice and with the cold temps showing a growth of an inch a day. 12 to even 14" perch with a few Walleye's are being taken and Kens spoons seem to be the hot ticket right now with these early ice active fish which are being found in anywhere from 4-15fow so don't be afraid to try in close and with good current ice conditions and even colder weather in the forecast many machines will be venturing out to some of their favorite spots. As always we stress caution and safety whenever you are on the ice so make sure to stop, check the ice along your path and always notify someone of where you are going and when to expect you back. Check out the Pond Predators Facebook page for the latest ice and fishing conditions. We look forward to hearing from Captain Nick each month in 2018.

# Can't Stop Shivering

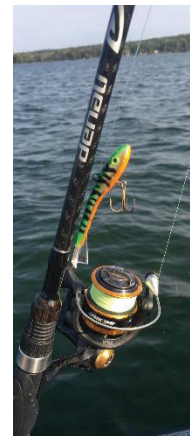
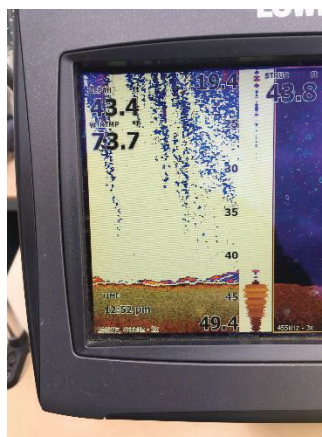
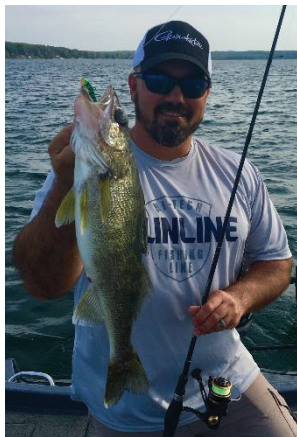
By Erich Carlson

When Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame anglers Keith Kavajecz and Gary Parsons finished 1st and 2nd in the National Walleye Tour event out of Escanaba, MI back in August of 2014, the word from the water was they were using a new and innovative technique. Very shortly after that NWT event, they spilled the beans, revealing that the **Moonshine Shiver Minnow** as a crucial part of their winning presentation. During practice, Gary and Keith had developed, and mastered the technique now known as “Shivering”, and it paid off in a big way. The “Shiver Minnow” itself is a glide style bait specially designed and built by a fine gentleman by the name of Tom Gudwer, owner of the **Moonshine Bait Company** primarily to be an ice fishing lure; but it has since taken the casting world by storm. If you haven't already gotten into doing it, casting and catching big Walleyes is absolutely some of the most fun you can have in fishing, and “Shivering” is by far the coolest way to do it! Here's how.

## The Setup

You'll need to start with a good selection of #2 and #3 Shiver Minnows, the glow colors work fantastic in lower light or overcast conditions, while the metallics and holographics are awesome in clear water or bright conditions, so match the hatch, or choose colors that tend to produce on your chosen body of water. As a general rule, I use the **1oz #3 Shiver Minnow** when the water depth exceeds 15 feet. For shallower water, or when I'm looking for a slower presentation in deeper water, I'll drop down a size to the 1/2oz #2. Long casts and long range hooksets are pretty typical, especially in clear water, so it is also essential that you spool up your spinning reel with a low diameter high-visibility 10-15lb non stretch superline, such as Sunline SX1, TX1, to help cut the water and drive the hooks into those hungry Walleyes. To aid with abrasion resistance from Zebra Mussels and mainline visibility tie on 3 to 6 feet of 12-15 lb fluorocarbon leader to your mainline using an Albright knot or a tie small barrel swivel and then your leader. A small snap can make it quick to change baits, however I've found that tying direct to my Shiver Minnow with the stiffer fluorocarbon helps to keep the bait from rolling over on itself

Shivering is not a finesse presentation, so you may very well be already equipped with the right equipment to successfully shiver up some big Walleyes. Any good quality 6' to 7'6" foot medium light to medium action spinning rod with a **fast to extra fast tip** will do the job just fine. Length of your setup is somewhat of a personal preference, however one important feature is having a enough backbone to drive the hooks home on #3 shiver minnow, as it's a heavy bait. I have tried a wide array of spinning rods, but my personal go to setup now is a MS632XF Denali Myriad. Along with the extra fast tip and rock solid backbone, I have also really come to like the raised palm grip that helps limit the fatigue on your hands and arms after a day of casting a 1oz bait.



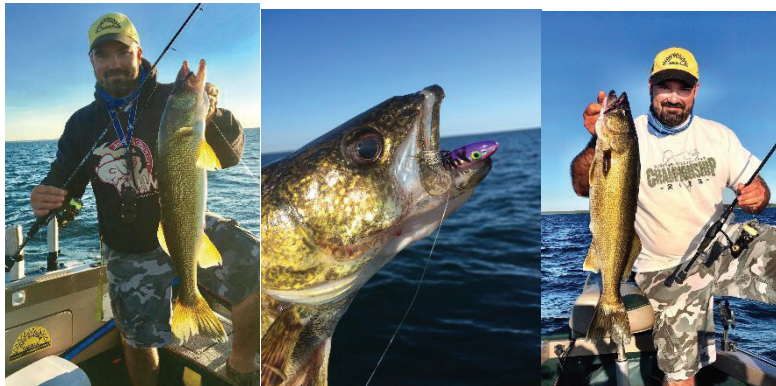
**A nice inland lake Walleye on a Shiver minnow from over 40 feet of water!**

## Mark'em Catch'em

Focus your search for the best “Shivering” locations by targeting your classic fish holding structure areas such as points, humps, or good shoreline breaks adjacent to deep water. If you mark fish that you think might be Walleyes, don't be afraid to give a “Shiver” a try. Shiver fish will be orienting to the bottom, feeding on forage such as Gobies, Yellow Perch, or even Rusty Crayfish. You may find that some of these areas hold small schools or pods of fish, while others may hold only a few individual Walleyes. Electronics play an important role in “Shivering”! While you can certainly have success by simply “fishing” likely spots, if you believe in and use your electronics effectively, you'll drastically increase the amount of fish that come topside. I have found it



increasingly productive in my own fishing to graph and fish for individual fish. With the quality of today's electronics it's simple to scroll back and drop a waypoint precisely on an individual fish. It's then a matter of positioning the boat upwind or off to the side within casting distance, setting your spotlock or anchor mode and "Shiver" it up. Have confidence! Learning to use, read, and understand the down and sidescan options will certainly up your game. While crystal clear and calm conditions may bear some influence, typically in waters 20 ft or deeper I'm able to readily mark Walleyes with the downscan overlay on traditional sonar, while in shallower water the sidescan becomes very helpful for finding those fish to target out to the sides of the boat. I've Shivered up Walleyes in waters from 10ft all the way to 65 ft deep so don't be afraid to go into search mode.



**A couple nice Lake Huron "Shiver" eyes!**

### **Cadence is Key**

There really are secrets, but the trick to getting "bit" while Shivering is to find the **cadence** that the fish want, I'm referring to the frequency at which you are quickly sweeping, or what I like to call "popping" your rod upward as you work the bait. Shiver minnows are truly unique glide baits in that they dart side to side, changing direction every time you snap your rod upward thus creating a "Walk the Dog" effect. This action drives Walleyes insane! I've found the most success starting by initially letting the bait fall to bottom on a tight line. Once the bait hits bottom, immediately give the rod a sweep of about a three feet; this hops the bait off bottom to either the left or right. Immediately drop the rod tip, giving the bait slack, which will help it change direction. Then, quickly reel up your slack from this motion as bait is gliding back down toward bottom repeating the sequence three, four, or even five times. The deeper the water is, typically the longer you'll wait between "popping" the bait. With each pop and drop of the rod your Shiver Minnow will erratically change directions. Ultimately the goal is to keep the bait "walking the dog" just off bottom, allowing the occasional longer pause bottom contact if you can do so without fouling up. You are basically trying to mimic a dying baitfish, be that a Goby, Perch, or Shiner and your Shiver Minnow is the perfect imposter. Don't be afraid to experiment with your cadence, sometimes it's just a subtle variation in the presentation that will trigger the predatory instincts of a big hungry Walleye!

### **The Bite**

Created by your cadence, the visual aspect of your Shiver Minnow darting back and forth really captures a Walleyes attention, but almost all of your strikes will be triggered by the "fall" or "glide". That being said, bites can vary greatly, from a savage arm jarring hits, to a subtle tap, to almost nothing, with the latter two being the most common. Shivering causes Walleyes to instinctively rush in very and grab your bait, sometimes even swallowing them or catching it on the "glide"; if your line is slack you may feel nothing but dead weight on the next lift. Set the hook, hard! Also, many times while going through your cadence, you may feel a "swoosh" type of sensation of a Walleye taking a swipe at your bait. These Walleyes seem to be quite aggressive, and can often be made to strike again immediately by giving a little variation to your Cadence such as a quick short double pop or perhaps a longer pause indicating to that fish that they have wounded the bait fish they are after, resulting in a strike. If the bottom allows, try making contact every two or three sequences, strikes will very often occur simultaneously as the bait contacts bottom as a big Walleye will attempts to pin or "smash" the bait into the bottom.

### **Just Do It**

We all get comfortable with our own preferred ways of fishing, for many, it's trolling, for others, it's vertical jigging. If you have a desire to become a better, more well rounded Walleye angler, you'll need to break out of your habits and try some new techniques. Why not start with "Shivering"? An easy way to start, is to simply leave everything at home but you casting rods, a box full of Shiver Minnows, and some determination. So, get yourself set up and give this cool technique a good honest try, I'm sure you won't be able to stop "Shivering" either.

### **On the Water Action**

Be sure to check out the upcoming Season 14 of **The Next Bite**, Episode 6, as Keith Kavajecz, Jake Romanack, and I shiver up some dandy Lake Huron Walleye on Thunder Bay out of Alpena, MI. The show will be aired on **CBS Sports, World Fishing Network, and Destination America**.



# BRAGGING BOARD



Don, Cookie, and Joann on the early season LSC ice.



Eric and Gary Lenz with some nice fish at one of our weigh ins.



LSCWA member Jason Wiegand with a nice August LSC Walleye. The fish went 26 5/8" 6.32 pounds and was good enough for second place in the open division big fish category at the August derby. Good work Jason!



LSCWA member Matt Orlando with a stud 31" 12.70 lb Walleye. The fish was taken on 12/2 in 40fow out in front of cedar point on a see threw pink lemonade P10 30/30 on 2oz weight



LSCWA member Gary Lenz with a nice mess of Walleye's taken on Erie on the final boat outing of the year. It was a beautiful day to end the season on



Eric with a nice late season walleye

## 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 maintenance 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.

# LSC Ice Fishing 101

by Trevor Larson

Hey LSCWA, Local Lake St. Clair angler Trevor Larson here with some tips and tactics, ice safety advice and preparation for a high catch rate efficiency.

First and foremost ice safety is key. As canals and marinas typically are the first areas to freeze, a good 2-3 inches will get the Brave anglers out itching for those first ice buckets full of jumbo perch and slab panfish. Always carry a spud bar and ice picks in these new ice situations and never fish alone. The last thing we want is to not only fall through the ice, but call out the ice rescue team and the worst possibility, not make it home.

Preparation is also key. Whether it's charging batteries for your electronics of choice, getting your auger blades sharpened, stocking up on your favorite spoons, plastics or tungsten jigs, or re-spooling rods and tip-ups, it's always key to be ready when first ice calls. I prefer running and gunning "hole hopping" for finesse fishing panfish. 32-36" rods with 2-3 lbs. test line

Primarily being a panfisherman, I always start off in local canals and marinas and then branch off into the bay and main lake when I hear of a hot bite on perch, pike or walleyes. Such information can be found by local guys posting on Facebook fishing groups like Lake St. Clair Fishing (Ice, Shore & Boat) or Ice Junkies Outdoors. When looking for a particular canal or marina to fish, I opt for the deeper marinas that fish will enter and hold in like a fishbowl. I like to look for docks and seawalls with ladders and wooden posts. These minor details can be game changers from one angler to another fishing near each other. Ladders, sunken logs and brush and weed beds will hold fish trying to avoid predators like pike and bass because they feel secure and hidden in these spots. Wooden posts will hold food sources like bugs, mites and small baitfish that crappies and other panfish alike will feed on during winter months. Although I prefer small tungsten jigs tipped with live baits like spikes or wax worms, artificial baits definitely have their time and place for those finicky and high pressured fish. Sometimes the bigger fish, perch and crappies especially will "take the bait" on those plastics resulting in my favorite, a panfish dinner for the family.

In closing out, I'd like to wish all of you Lake St. Clair ice anglers a safe and successful season, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Tight Lines



## LSCWA Kids Ice Fishing Outing / WCSX Cold as Ice

by Bob Barnes

It's that time of year again. The holidays are here, the air is crisp and soon it will be time to hit the ice for some hard water fishing.

As in years past, we will be teaming up with WCSX for our kid's ice fishing outing on 1/27/18 and Cold as Ice fishing tournament 1/28/18. Both will take place at Lake St. Clair Metro Park day sail area.

The kids outing is 9 am – 2 pm, a heated tent will be provided by WCSX, prizes for all the kids, food and hot coco. This event is open to all children and is free.

Cold as Ice will start at 7 am all entrants must check in and depart to the ice from the site. All rules and entry information can be found at <http://wcsx.com/>.

Let us all hope for good safe ice to make both events successful. Thank you WCSX for your support of the club.



# Fishing Education Weekend: Huron, Ohio

by Shawn Elliott & Mike Smith

There is no better place to hunt for trophy walleye than late fall on Lake Erie, in the Huron Point area. Current LSCWA Board members Shawn Elliott, Mike Smith, John Roodbeen, and former board member Ron Pisarski, signed up for Lance Valentines' Fishing Education Weekend, at Huron, Ohio, on Lake Erie.

Lance Valentines' Teachin' Fishin' educational weekend trips are packed full of seminars on learning new techniques and gear. The seminars are given by top notch professional speakers, who are experts in their field and have current relevant data to share. Both novice and serious walleye fisherman attended this particular weekend to gain more knowledge on walleye fishing. "Lance Valentine and his staff are true professionals and top notch experts", says John Roodbeen. With that, after the seminars, the fisherman and woman, with over 100 in attendance, go hit the water and try out the newly learned fishing strategies and gear.

A speaker from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources stated that, "Lake Erie is currently on an upswing of total number of fish in the system and the healthiest the lake has been production wise in over 20 years". Additionally, the next "three to five years the fishing will be fantastic to awesome fishing!"

"I liked hanging out with like-minded fisherman, for three-four days, at one of the best walleye fisheries in there world", claimed Ron Pisarski. The weekend was about learning and sharing techniques to catch walleye, no bragging, betting, or negative criticism. The club style format of the event fosters comradery and conviviality. Lance encourages participants to "get out of their comfort zone, try something different", and we did. We pulled two boats down and put fish in the boat with what we learned at the seminars. All the fish we caught were fat and had full bellies of baitfish. The Huron Point fishery didn't disappoint.



Pictured: Off Shore Tackle Robert North and Shawn Elliott

# January Guest Speaker

This months LSCWA guest speaker will be Elkton Michigan native Brandon Stanton.

As a licensed USCG Captain & Guide operating Team Gunsmoke Sport Fishing, Brandon has been fishing Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay for over 30 years. Whether it be early Spring and Fall - river jigging for Walleye in Detroit, Spring - King Salmon & Steelhead on Lake Huron, Summer - Saginaw Bay Walleye, Fall - King Salmon on Lake Michigan, or Winter - Walleye through the ice on Saginaw Bay. Captain Brandon has a great success rate, and In-Fisherman Magazine's 2017 go to guide on Saginaw Bay!

Brandon has been a Pro Staff / instructor at the "Mark Martin Fishing Vacation School" since 2012 teaching ice fishing techniques and tips to anglers all over Michigan. Brandon is also a member of numerous other Pro Staffs for some of the best companies in the industry, including Otter Outdoors, Rapala, Okuma, Navionics, Ice Force, PK lures, Trash-Ease, Fishbones Custom Lures, Wordwide Marine Insurance, ect.. His input has been requested on developing several prototype lures and also fishing rods for national companies.

He is a member of the National Professional Anglers Association and fishes numerous tournaments, including MWT and Cabela's MWC. Also through the NPAA, Brandon has been a part of youth education, teaching young anglers some of the basics. In 2010 he founded his own fishing tournament and it has since grown into a corporate sponsored success.

Brandon is also a Board Member and past VP of the Thumb Chapter Michigan Steelheaders. He is a firm believer that educating people how to maintain and improve our lakes is just as important as teaching them to fish. Brandon has gained a wealth of knowledge over the years from fisherman in his family as well as numerous professional anglers whom he's had the privilege to fish and be friends with.

Brandon has been featured in many published articles in various outdoor magazines, newspapers, online and television show segments. Brandon also gives fishing seminars several times a year, teaching some of the things he has learned over the years. Brandon will be speaking to the club on tips, tactics, gear and locations for targeting Walleye through the ice. We look forward to having Brandon and encourage members to bring a note pad and plenty of questions



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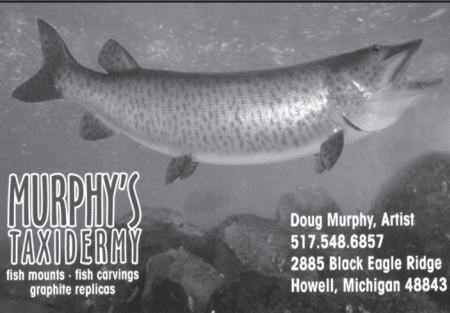
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