



THE GREAT LAKES SPORT FISHING NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN STEELHEAD & SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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Boardman River Fish Passage Update



A consortium of fishery management and research institutions selected Michigan's Boardman River as the site for a first-of-its-kind project to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of technologies to pass desirable fish around river barriers while simulta-

neously blocking harmful species, most notably the destructive sea lamprey. Lessons from the project could have regional, national, and global implications. The ten-year project, led by the bi-national Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and is taking place at the Board-

man River's Union Street Dam, located in Traverse City, Michigan.

Heather Hettinger, Fisheries Management Biologist, for the MDNR provided a project update to the members of the Traverse City Area Steelheaders on February 7, 2018. The Boardman Dam, originally constructed in 1894 as a hydropower generation dam, had no fish passage capabilities. The project involved the removal of three dams on the Boardman River, with the goal of enhancing and restoring cold water habitat and allow fish passage up and down the system by reconnecting 160 miles of high quality river habitat.

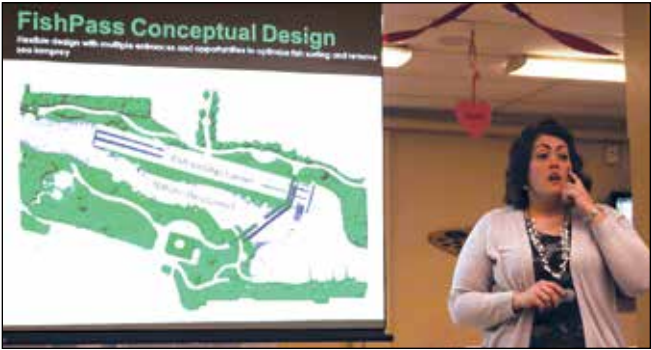
The Boardman restoration project is considered

to be the most comprehensive dam removal and restoration projects in Michigan's history and one of the largest such projects in the Great Lakes Basin. The river restoration construction work of the Boardman Dam removal began in the spring of 2017 and will be complete in the late spring of 2018.

Four dams, all within 20 miles of the mouth of the Boardman, where it empties into West Grand Traverse Bay, came into focus for this project. Union Street Dam is about a mile upstream from the river mouth and controls the lake level of Boardman Lake. Five miles further

"Boardman"

Continued on page 3



Heather Hettinger, MDNR Biologist



Beautiful Arctic Grayling.

Photo from journal.amberjack.com, @frontierfishinglodge

Re-introducing Arctic Grayling in Michigan

By Ed Golder

It's been a little over a year since the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI), announced a new initiative aimed at bringing back a long-gone historical species to the Great Lakes state - Arctic Grayling.

Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative - so dubbed following the addition of more than 30 organizations

to the DNR's and LRBOI's foundational partnership - is committed to re-introducing this culturally-significant species and has been making steady progress since last June to head down that path.

"Our formal mission as an initiative is to restore self-sustaining populations of Arctic Grayling within its historic range in Michigan," said DNR Fisheries

"Grayling"

Continued on page 11

Shipwreck Buoy Project Begins To Float

By Kevin Ailes

"Dad, what's that?" Something massive was taking shape on the screen of Adam and his son's fish finder. They were accustomed to seeing marks on the screen indicating a single fish or schools of fish but this was a far larger mass. Their high resolution fish finder was beginning to show the shape of a behemoth below. As the pixels filled in, an outline of what appeared to be a broken boat which rose some 30 feet from the lake bottom came into view. Adam had heard stories of lost vessels in the oceans but was doubting the scale on his graph. If it was correct this looked to be over 200 feet long, right offshore in Lake Michigan. So entranced

were father and son with the picture that they didn't initially notice that their rods released. High hopes of multiple fish striking were quickly dashed when realizing that 2 of their fishing rods were now hooked on whatever that large object was on the bottom.

As the reader most likely has already deduced, that large object on the bottom was a shipwreck. Unknown too many, there are approximately 400 located shipwrecks throughout the Great Lakes. These wrecks range in size from the Edmund Fitzgerald at 728 feet down to the legendary Le Griffon, lost in 1679, which may have been less than 40 feet long. "There are about 1,500 shipwrecks reported to have been lost in Michigan waters based on his-

toric sources" according to Wayne Lusardi, Maritime archaeologist for the State of Michigan. He estimates that number to be closer to 6,000 in the entire Great Lakes. In the past, when it

wasn't against the law, scuba divers removed items which they found valuable or interesting. The Abandoned Shipwreck act of 1988 prohibits removal of artifacts. This legislation

also provides daunting federal and state penalties for those who violate it. As a result, shipwrecks discovered since that time remain largely intact.

The cold and sometimes



Divers Jerry Passon and Dan Schultz enjoy the 100 ft. visibility on the Ironsides Shipwreck, Grand Haven Michigan.

downright frigid waters of the Great Lakes have kept these underwater time capsules an enticing dive location for shipwreck divers. In the interest of protecting the shipwrecks and divers from hazardous anchoring practices, a mooring buoy project has come together. It is a cooperative effort between the Coast Guard, Michigan DNR, Michigan Underwater Preserves Committee, and the Lake Carriers Association. The plan is to establish navigational mooring buoys on

"Shipwreck"

Continued on page 2



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“Boardman”
Continued from page 1

upstream is where the Sabin Dam was removed last fall. Another mile upstream the Boardman Dam was removed. And 12 miles upstream from there used to be Brown Bridge Dam. The original river bed has been painstakingly recreated by identifying the substrate and following the gravel and woody remnants of the river bottom as it wound through the terrain in the late 1800’s. Vegetation and plant life natural to the river path has been replanted.

The Boardman River is a cold water stream that lacks the nutrients to be a highly productive river system for the fish species found in the river. That’s because the feeder streams which support the Boardman flow from forested areas and not from agricultural lands that provide the nutrients necessary to support larger fish than the 3-5 inch trout now found in the stream. The system will benefit from allowing all native species to pass, such as lake sturgeon, walleye, yellow perch, rock bass, small mouth bass, northern pike, lake trout,

musky, and brown trout. With the removal of the dams, the temperature of the water has dropped by nine degrees and the river is at 56 degrees in August. This temperature is ideal for the passage of steelhead trout and Hettinger said the Fisheries Division wants to see steelhead passed, and so does she.

Because steelhead spawn in the spring they do not compete with brown or brook trout for redds in the fall as salmonies would if allowed to pass upstream. Steelhead eggs and emerging fry could provide food



Traverse City Area Steelheaders board (L-R): Henry Nabors, State Director; Heather Hettinger, MDNR; Joe Cruzen, President; Judy Seaver; Dick Hartrick, Membership; Howard Seaver and Randy Richardson.

for native trout in the area and by so doing, benefit all the species present in the system. As stewards of cold water fisheries, we are aware of the impact of global warming and how climate change is affecting our cold water streams. In the decades to come, warmer temperatures are going to change what we target and how we fish. More crappy and pan fish will abound in streams in the southern Lower Peninsula. Brown trout and steelhead will no

longer be able to survive in the warmer waters that remain in southern rivers and fishing will resemble what it is in Kentucky and Tennessee today. Cold water streams like the Boardman River will become even more important to preserving steelhead and trout fishing. The steps we take today with initiatives like the Boardman River restoration project will be looked upon as critically important to preserving the future of trout fishing.



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2	02/16/18	02/23/18
3	04/20/18	05/04/18
4	06/22/18	06/29/18
5	08/24/18	08/31/18
6	10/19/18	10/26/18

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The Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association (MSSFA) is a multi-state, non-profit organization dedicated to educating the general public on improving, reserving and promoting sport fishing, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and rivers. Commonly referred to as The Michigan Steelheaders, or simply Steelheaders. MSSFA represents sport fishing families in the Great Lakes region. MSSFA encourages the strictest observances of sport fishing laws and ethical fishing practices.

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Dr. Ken Merckel

This is the time of year that many issues concerning Michigan's fisheries are under review.

We have the Lake Michigan Technical Committee, with members from each agency of the surrounding Lake Michigan states, working together under the guidance of the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, and studying Coregonus Species, Cisco (herring) genetics, and then charged with developing a "white paper" on the merits of beginning a Cisco restoration project in Lake Michigan. Once the white paper is finalized and made public, there will be time to comment.

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, has posted public comments, and public meeting transcripts

received during public comment period (August 7, 2017 – December 8, 2017) for the GLMRIS Brandon Road Project Report, the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study. Brandon Road Draft Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement – Will County, Illinois comment and public meeting can be found on the GLMRIS website located at <http://glmr.is.anl.gov>. During the last 16 years, the only impediments to Asian carp entering Lake Michigan have been two electric barriers installed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineer across the Chicago Sanitary canal and one needs to be shut down when steel barges carry petroleum to a refinery pass

through the lock. It seems there could potentially be a spark which may cause petroleum vapors to ignite. Asian Carp in the Wabash River, are halted by a chain link fence and earthen berm separating the Wabash watershed from Lake Erie.

Dennis will meet with Governor Snyder's office in May to learn more about the Governor's plan to move forward with funding the \$8 million annual cost of maintaining the recommended alterations to the Brandon Road Lock and Dam that the Army Corp recommended in its recently released plan to stop the carp from invading the Great Lakes.

A new initiative to bring back the Artic Grayling to a few of Michigan's riv-

ers was started in 2016 by MDNR, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and Michigan Technological University. I talked with Todd Grischke, and learned that three major grants and donations from individuals and the City of Grayling are making it happen. The first phase of the initiative is to collect stream habitat samples and fish community data in the Upper Manistee River. This data collection allows both the evaluation of current stream habitat conditions and the development of criteria to determine which other streams may provide suitable habitat for Artic Grayling. The plan is using the protocol from the Montana's successful Artic Grayling program. Dennis met with Ed

Eisch, the Michigan Hatchery manager, and will provide more detail as the initiative moves forward.

The Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee meeting on February 1, 2018 covered a number of issues. The Lake Trout overharvest by sports fishers in MHI (Roger City to Drummond Island) was solved by going to a 2 Lake Trout daily limit in MHI. The research on Lake Trout in Central and Southern parts of Lake Huron suggests stocks are not holding up well and maybe decreasing. We have the resources to do mid-lake research with the new research vessel, Howard Tanner. Once the mid-lake and inshore trawls are completed we should have

the information we need to make an informed decision. This information should include the Canadian harvest by Commercial and First Nation people. Then a TAC (Total Allowable Catch) can be established for all fishers on Lake Huron.

Since new legislation regarding an updated Commercial Fishing Statue has not been introduced as yet in the Senate, there will be no changes in the Commercial fishing for 2018 on Lake Huron. A report covering the 10 research nets south of Harbor Beach showed that 150 Walleye and 460 Lake Trout were released from these nets this past season.

There has been no progress in reinstating comprehensive Cormorant control to protect sport and commercial fisheries. The nest count and bird population has increased to pre-control times.

Perch and Walleye regulations for 2018 will remain the same.

The dates for the Spring Sea Grant workshops have been announced but agendas are not set as yet. All will be evening meetings. The Thumb meetings will be held at the Ubyly Fox Hunters Club on M-19, on April 19, 2018. The Roger City Meeting will be on April 29, 2018. The dates for Saginaw, Bay City, and Cedarville are still pending. These meetings are open to the public.

~ Kenneth E. Merckel,
President



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Just for fun

Riddle #1

Two fathers and two sons go on a fishing trip. They each catch a fish. But at the end of the day when they count the fish, there are only three fish. Nobody ate a fish and none of the fish died or escaped. How can that be?



Riddle #2

There were 4 men fishing. The boat tipped, and every man fell into the water. Not a single man got wet. How is this possible?

Answers on page 17



Dennis Eade, Executive Director
Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fishermen's Association

Gov. Rick Snyder held a press conference in South Haven on January 21st announcing the creation of the Great Lakes Basin Partnership to block Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes through the Brandon Road Lock & Dam in Joliet, Illinois. The partnership members include recreation, environmental, conservation, business and civic organizations along with the governors of the Great Lakes States and Canadian Provinces. So far, 90% of the surface water area of the Great Lakes is represented in the coalition. Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio and Ontario have signed onto the partnership which will guarantee the \$8 million needed annually to provide the non-federal share of the funding to operate and maintain the improved system at the Brandon Road Lock & Dam. Steelheaders were well represented at the press conference with South Haven, SW Michigan, Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Holland, and White River all in attendance. We need all of our chapters to support this effort to speed up the installation of enhanced obstructions at the Brandon Road Lock. Visit the website here blockasiancarp.org

As a result of the controversy over the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Department's expressed intention of raising and planting Cisco in the Great Lakes, we have asked Dan O'Keefe, MSU Extension Educator, to join us for the February board meeting to provide context for the pros and cons of this project. Many of the participants in the Ludington Regional Fisheries Workshop expressed concern for introducing a strain that may not be genetically identical to the cisco now populating the Grand Traverse Bays and showing up along the northern coastline of Lake Michigan. Others were concerned about Cisco becoming a prey fish on alewife once they grow to size where they compete with Chinook for the available forage. General sentiment was to gather more data before moving forward. Dr. Dan O'Keefe is planning a public workshop this spring to devote more time and attention to this subject and will notify us when and where it will be held.

The board of directors will select the 2018 Howard A. Tanner Award recipient

at the board meeting. The award will be presented at the April 14th Presidents' Meeting at the Michigan Historical Library and Museum.

Fish passage on the Boardman River in Traverse City, MI is becoming a controversial topic as the dam removals on the river continue. A number of local fly fishers in the area object to allowing steelhead and salmon to move up the river when the project is complete.

The TCAS chapter held a meeting on February 7, 2018 featuring Heather Hettinger, MDNR biologist and point person for the fish passage project. An article covering her presentation is in this issue of Great Lakes Sport Fishing News. The passage of steelhead and salmon would positively impact the river by putting more nutrients into the system, however, steelhead and salmon will compete directly with the brook and brown trout currently inhabiting the river and tributary streams.

I visited with MDNR Fish Production Program Manager, Ed Eisch, on February 8th in Traverse City, MI. Ed is actively involved

in overseeing the renovations to the Thompson State Fish Hatchery (bids will be requested on February 19th) which will enhance cool water fisheries as well as cold water fisheries. The improvements include building additional facilities to raise 250,000 more walleye, 15,000 fall fingerling muskies and 220,000 more steelhead annually. A new geothermal well will be installed to provide ideal water conditions for raising steelhead. New feeders will replace the ones currently in use.

We talked about insuring the Atlantic salmon production program (currently managed at Lake Superior State University) is retained

and a brood stock protected in the event retirements occur among the current staff members. Ed assured me that the president of the university has made it clear that the program will continue as a hallmark of the university's curriculum because so many of the program's students graduate to fill key fish biologist positions throughout the country. Ed is also excited about the Arctic Grayling Initiative action plan. The research focus area will work on a variety of items; including understanding relationships between resident trout and grayling, prioritizing streams for grayling introduction, and evaluating instream Remote Site Incuba-

tors (RSIs). RSIs allow fish to be reared and released directly in the streams to better allow them to imprint to the waters they will hopefully reproduce in later on.

A number of important issues to benefit steelhead and salmon fishing are coming up in the months ahead. We expect the introduction of a statue to regulate commercial fishing to drop soon, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding is going to be a key issue and the new farm bill may have provisions to incentivize close system aquaculture which would help us defend the waters of the Great Lakes from commercial net-pen fish farming.



MSSFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis Eade

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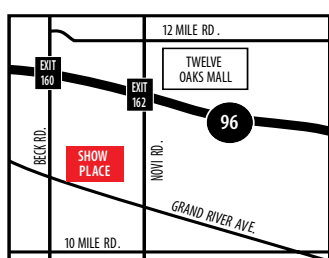
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Grave Yard Shift Walleyes

By Jason Mitchell

So many fisheries come to mind where after dark patterns offer some of the best opportunities for catching fish. After dark strategies and locations however can vary dramatically from where we might find fish during daylight or twilight hours.

What happens so often to us as anglers is that we simply figure out one window or movement of fish and when that window ends, we assume that the bite is over. Could be setting up on a classic point

anticipating the sunset bite. A classic pattern might start in deeper water and as the day progresses to where the sun hits the horizon, we find an intense window of fish activity on top of the point that might last half an hour. What so often happens is that after this intense flurry, we quit marking fish and assume that the bite is over. The bite might indeed be over if we don't make any adjustments but the reality is that we can prolong the bite and keep catching fish if we move with the fish. Of course there are also basin and transition

bites as well like what we often see on Red Lake and Mille Lacs after dark. Perhaps the toughest aspect of catching walleye well after dark is forgetting some of the lessons we tend to learn during the day.

So often, finding and catching walleyes is all about reading structure and focusing on edges. After dark however, you can throw that edge mentality out the window. We often find walleyes roaming away from structure well after dark. Large expansive flats in shallow water are a favorite location. That four

to six foot sand flat that is several acres might be void of walleye activity during the day where even sunrise and sunset patterns seem to revolve around structure that breaks into deeper water. In the middle of the night however, walleyes will often push up and roam much shallower water than what some anglers would envision.

Walleye after dark play by a different set of rules. Make the right adjustments to capitalize on some of the

"Walleye"

Continued on page 12

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles.

-Doug Larson



PATIENCE WHEN FISHING

by Bob Jensen

Through the years, I've been to a lot of places where people gather. It might be a sportshow or a boat show or a home show or a restaurant or just hanging out with friends: Wherever. The conversation often goes to fishing, and, often, a non-fisherman in the group says that he doesn't go fishing because he doesn't have the patience. When I hear that, I think to myself of all the successful anglers that I've had the opportunity to fish with over the years. And then I remember: Patience was not an attribute they possessed. The most successful anglers are not patient: In fact, they're usually quite impatient. Here's why patience is not necessarily a quality that lends to fishing success.

For most people, our time spent fishing is limited. We just can't be out there every day. Whether it be open water or ice-fishing, our time on the water or ice is limited. And, since we're fishing, we want to catch some fish, and more is better than a few. For those reasons, it usually doesn't work well to be patient. We need to get after it. To get after it, we need to spend time fishing the areas where the fish are, and then we need to show them a bait that they are willing to eat.

In the ice season, it's pretty easy to figure out if there are fish below your hole in the ice if you're using a sonar. There is no question that a depth-finder will help you catch more fish. A friend of mine wasn't a believer until I loaned him my Vexilar. After just one weekend on the ice with it, he vowed to never go ice-fishing again without one. This is a guy who would drill a hole and sit on it for hours. He was patient. He didn't catch a lot of fish. When using the depthfinder

for the first time, he learned that if no fish come in and at least look at your bait in a few minutes, it's time to move. He is now less patient, and he now catches a lot more fish.

Same is true in open water. Whether you're fishing from a dock or a boat, you've got to keep moving until you find the fish. If you've got confidence in an area it's okay to give it a little more time, but don't fish memories. Just because you caught fish on a particular spot last trip or last year doesn't mean that they'll be there now.

The same thing is true with lure selection. Many anglers have their favorite lure, and if you want to start with that favorite, and it's appropriate for the area being fished, by all means tie it on. But if you believe that there are fish in the area and your favorite lure is not their favorite thing to eat at that time, give them another offering. I have so many memories of fish liking a particular bait one day and refusing it the next day. They'll even change preferences on an hourly basis sometimes.

People go fishing for a variety of reasons, and that's the appeal of fishing. If you enjoy throwing a bobber off the dock and watching it while you watch the other things going on, that's wonderful. But if you want to catch more fish, patience, for the most part, is not the answer. Keep moving, keep trying different presentations, keep doing whatever it takes to get a fish to inhale your lure and you'll catch more fish.

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Recovering America's Wildlife Act Introduced in U.S. Congress

By Brandon Butler,
Driftwood Outdoors

The Act would dedicate \$1.3 billion annually to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to conserve fish and wildlife. The funds would come from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act was intro-

duced in the U.S. Congress as House Resolution 4647 (H.R. 4647). Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) introduced this bipartisan legislation. The Act would dedicate \$1.3 billion annually to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to conserve fish and wildlife. The funds would come from the development of energy and

mineral resources on federal lands and waters.

"This is a very important and creative legislative initiative to enhance wildlife ecosystems across our nation through constructive partnerships in states," stated Representative Fortenberry in a release from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The filing of this legislation is the result of the work



of The Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's

Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources. This 28-member collaboration between leaders in wildlife conservation, industry, and government, made the recommendation that Congress dedicate \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to state-based fish and wildlife conservation. The Panel was convened to evaluate and recommend a more sustainable funding approach to avert a fish and wildlife conservation crisis. Johnny Morris, the founder of Bass Pro Shops, and Dave Freudenthal, a former Wyoming governor, co-chaired the Panel.

"Each of us, as citizens of this country, has the responsibility to ensure diverse fish and wildlife resources are managed for future generations. Fish and wildlife need healthy habitats to thrive—enhancing our lives and providing many other benefits," stated Johnny Morris, Founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops. "State fish and wildlife agencies have a solid track record of accomplishing remarkable recovery and restoration successes since the early 1900s. However, enhanced funding is now needed to address today's fish and wildlife habitat management challenges."

The Pittman-Robertson Act was established in 1937 to fund wildlife conservation through a tax on hunting and shooting equipment. The success of this funding model was used to pass the similar Dingell-Johnson Act in 1950 which supports sport fishing. These two Acts have supported state-based conservation for more than half of a century,

but the time has come to significantly expand funding for conservation across the country.

Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson put the responsibility of funding conservation squarely on the shoulders of sportsmen. As a sportsman myself, I am proud to pay these taxes and to contribute to funding conservation. However, sportsmen can't be responsible for funding the future of all conservation on our own. Conservation requires the financial support of all Americans.

"This bill will help thousands of wildlife species through proactive, collaborative, on-the-ground efforts. The approach is unique because it calls for early action to save struggling wildlife, rather than waiting until species are on the brink of extinction and need expensive 'emergency room' measures to recover. When this bill becomes law, we will increase wildlife populations, strengthen America's economy, and reduce the need for regulatory measures," said Collin O'Mara, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.

Now, everyone who loves nature needs to let their elected member of Congress know you want them to make the right decision for the future of fish and wildlife and ask them to support Recovering America's Wildlife Act and vote yes on House Resolution 4647 (H.R. 4647). To learn more about this Act, and to contact your representative, visit www.congress.gov.



"Shipwreck"

Continued from page 2

of life associated with the sinking but the lifeboats did not fare well in the large breaking waves onshore. Today the Ironsides is popular shipwreck to dive on with the local scuba community and is visited often. Her entire story and many others can be found at michiganshipwrecks.org. This site has details and GPS locations of many shipwrecks on the western shore of Lake Michigan. Michiganpreserves.org has GPS locations and information on shipwrecks all around Michigan.

Often fishers come

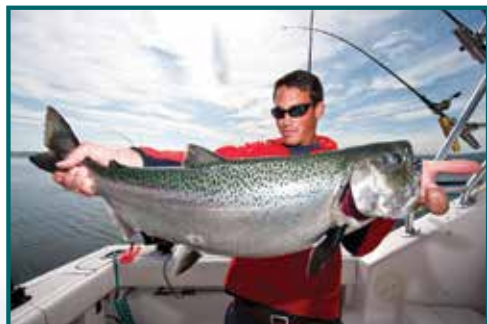
across shipwrecks. If they are curious about what those hook ups and bottom bumps are, they may be found at the previously mentioned websites. "Bumps on the bottom" and an unforeseeable snag in the Great Lakes not listed on those websites could very well be undiscovered shipwrecks. Feel free to contact the author at thatshipwreckguy@yahoo.com about them and he'll investigate. The Rockaway shipwreck off of South Haven, MI was originally snagged by charter captain Donnie Nichols Sr. and Jr. Their names will forever be linked with the story of the Rockaway shipwreck.

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This paper has no paid writers and has a grass roots style. Its writers are the every day fishermen who share their techniques and fishing adventures. And has become well renown for it's *January Special Edition* or "*Show Edition*" that is seen at all the spring expos and sport, boat and fishing shows throughout the Great Lakes.

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Visit us online: mssfa.org or e-mail info@mssfa.org

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2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

MUCC Headquarters

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

2101 Wood Street, Lansing, MI

Saturday April 14, 2018	10:00 AM	MI Historical Library & Museum
Wednesday June 20, 2018	7:00 PM	Rose Lake Shooting Range, 14500 Peacock Road, Bath MI
Wednesday August 15, 2018	7:00 PM	MUCC
Wednesday October 17, 2018	7:00 PM	MUCC
Wednesday December 19, 2018	7:00 PM	MUCC

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After May 24th \$35

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Registration and more info online

www.fishcharlevoix.com



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A list of participating retailers is below.
The most current information can be found
on the MSSFA website:

Mssfa.org

	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Discount Type
1	Al's Automotive	13711 Ironwood NW	Walker	MI	49544	Member Rates
2	Al & Bob's Sports	3100 S. Davison	Wyoming	MI	49548	10% Discount with Al & Bob's Card
3	All Auto Care	1234 Ball Ave. NE	Grand Rapids	MI	49505	Member Rates
4	Alpine Rent-All & Sales	1452 Alpine Ave NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49504	10% on Stihl & Toro Parts. Www.alpinerent-all.com info@alpinerent-all.com
5	Ann's Custom Canvas	4414 Remembrance Rd	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount, not valid on specials. Mention steelheaders before ordering
6	Art Van Furniture	Statewide				Friends and Family Sales only (need special coupon)
7	Auto Owners Insurance	303 E. Monroe	Durand	MI	48429	Rowe Agent Group #486
8	Batteries Plus	2061 N-139 Suite B	Benton Harbor	MI	49022	10% & Member Discount 269-925-7374 www.batteriesplus.com
9	Batteries Plus	386 Bay Park Dr, Suite B	Holland	MI	49424	10% & Member Discount 616-396-9914 www.batteriesplus.com
10	Batteries Plus	5228 S. Westnedge Ave	Kalamazoo	MI	49002	10% & Member Discount 269-553-2355 www.batteriesplus.com
11	Batteries Plus	3031 28th Street SE	Kentwood	MI	49512	10% & Member Discount 616-575-0500 www.batteriesplus.com
12	Batteries Plus	5839 Hrvey Street, Suite 6	Norton Shores	MI	49444	10% & Member Discount 231-747-9168 www.batteriesplus.com
13	Berkfield & Co LTD	2625 Pontiac Lake Road	Waterford	MI	48328	5% Great Lake Sportsmens Program on personal Insurance, on home/auto.
14	Big Lake Outfitters of Saugatuck	640 Water St	Saugatuck	MI	49453	10% on fishing tackle (retail store) with membership card 269-857-4762
15	Big Papa Sportfishing	50642 Oregon Ave.	Novi	MI	48374	10% except on equipment
16	Black Dog Outfitters	4444 14 Mile Rd	Rockford	MI	49341	10% Discount on fly tying materials, hooks & lines. www.blackdog-outfitters.com
17	BoatU.S.					\$15 Annual Membership Dues - Use Membership # GA83723B
18	Bob's Outdoors	Statewide	www.bobsoutdoors.com			10% Discount (www.bobsoutdoors.com)
19	Brenner's Service	4765 W River Dr	Comstock Park	MI	46321	5% exclusions may apply. 616-784-9872 dawnbrenner@hotmail.com
20	Dayton, Rick R, DDS	169 Louis Campau Promenade Ste 2A	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	20% off all services (616)458-2545
21	Cascade Capital Funding	4251 Cascade Rd. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	Free appraisal up to \$300.00
22	Dockside Marine, Inc	4320 State Rd	Glennie	MI	48737	15% Off Parts & Accessories (Excludes Electronics)
23	Dunham's Sports	Statewide				10% Discount # 50050/3
24	Firestone - Metro 25	19268 Middlebelt	Livonia	MI	48152	\$20 off on \$200 or more on service www.metro25firestone.com
25	Fish with Jim Outfitters	http://www.fishwithjimoutfitters.com/	248-252-1277			Discount \$50.00 off the total trip price.
26	Glacier Corporation	1021 Fuller St.	Santa Ana	CA	92701	Aquarium Chillers for "salmon in classroom" \$625 + 60 (s&h) = \$685
27	Great Lakes Angler Magazine		www.glangler.com			Use promo code MCLUB10 1yr/\$13, 2yr/\$25, 3yr/\$36
28	Health First Chiropractic Clinic	2526 Woodmeadow Dr SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49546	First Visit Free
29	Homestead Resort on Betsie River	2399 Dam Rd	Benzonia	MI	49616	10% In Season, 25% Off Season (homestead@crystal-rentals.com)
30	Insta-Launch Campground	20 Park Ave	Manistee	MI	49660	Member Discount
31	Insurance Shop/Fremont Ins.	824 Water St.	East Jordan	MI	49727	10% Discount off insurance for MSSFA Group Members
32	Jim Waldron Pontaic, Buick, GMC	1146 S. State Rd	Davison	MI	48423	Contact Nick Russloll for Sales, 10% off all parts not to exceed \$100.00
33	J Smith Custom Tackle	1136 E Hughes Lake Road	Rose City	MI	48654	15% - 20% off depending on rod. Customrodsbyjsmith.com 989-685-2819
34	K & M Marine	14990 Telegraph Rd	Redford	MI	48239	10% off merchandise except sale items (www.kandmmarine.com)
35	Kamp Oil Inc	6467 Manistee St	Fredric	MI	49733	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
36	Kamp Oil Inc	3650 Eastern Ave SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49508	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
37	Beebe Oil Co (aka Kamp Oil)	4999 22 Mile Rd	Utica	MI	48317	Citgo Sea & Snow 4-1 gal case 13.50/gal = 54/case, other disc avail.
38	Lapeer Boat Service	3556 Fort Knox Dr	Lapeer	MI	48446	10% off parts and labor (810-245-6038)
39	Liberty Tax Service	544 E. 8th St.	Holland	MI	49423	\$20.00 Discount on tax service
40	Life Family Chiropractic Centres	5795 Balsam Dr	Hudsonville	MI	49426	Complimentary 1st visit (excludes medicare) 50% off 1st massage
41	Linwood Beach Marina & Campground	135 S. Linwood Beach	Linwood	MI	48634	10% off service work
42	Logan's Run Muskegon River Cottage Rental	1648 Gardner St.	Newaygo	MI	49337	10% Discount www.logansrun.us 616-485-4501
43	Mark's Sport Shop	11530 Mason Dr	Grant	MI	49327	Member Discount
44	MUCC	2101 Wood Street	Lansing	MI	48912	\$18.00 Membership Dues
45	Ramada Lighthouse Inn	1555 Phoenix Rd.	South Haven	MI	49090	20% Discount 269-639-9900
46	Richfield RV	Statewide				10% Discount
47	River Raisin Marina & Campground	2502 E. Elm Avenue	Monroe	Mi	48161	Buy 1 get 1 free - call 313-575-4367 (www.riverraisinmarina.com)
48	RX Optical	Statewide				Plan 308
49	Slamco	Internet Sales	www.slammertipup.com			10% Discount
50	Sonus	3535 Parks St, Suite 108	Muskegon Heights	MI	49444	10% Discount. 231-737-4570 laura.szot@americanhearingsonus.com
51	Sun Coast Marine	1172 68th Street	South Haven	MI		Member discount
52	The Angling Outpost	2480 Duck Lane Rd	Whitehall	MI	49461	www.anglingoutpost.com 5% use coupon "steelheader" for online purchases
53	Tuffy Muffler	435 N. Beacon	Grand Rapids	MI	49417	10% off parts and labor
54	Tuffy Muffler	4384 Kalamazoo SE	Grand Rapids	MI	48512	10% off parts and labor
55	Tuffy Muffler	610 28th St SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49507	10% off parts and labor
56	Tuffy Muffler	4315 Clyde Park SW	Wyoming	MI	49509	10% off parts and labor
57	Van's Sport Center	1855 Alpine Ave.	Walker	MI	49544	10% Discount
58	Warrior Lures	5915 Lillian La	Traverse City	MI	49684	10% Discount on all product ordered (www.warriorlures.com)
59	West Michigan Propeller	847 Ionia Ave. NW	Grand Rapids	MI	49503	10% Discount
60	WG Grinders	5769 28th St. SE	Grand Rapids	MI	49512	10% Discount dine in/carry out (catering discounts available)

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Metal Reflectivity

By Jim Bedford

In the spring we have a wide range of river conditions and steelhead can be found in a large range of water types and conditions. They can be spawning in a foot of very clear water on a sunny day or holding in a deep hole in a high, muddy river on a dark cloudy day. Almost all the fresh-water fish that we pursue, including spring steelhead, feed or respond to intruders in their space primarily by sight. How well metallic lures like spoons and spinners reflect light tell us a lot

about how well the fish can see them. The amount of light that a metal finish will reflect is a really complicated subject. Light is made up of many wavelengths which correspond to many colors. The wavelengths that are absorbed versus those that are reflected determine the color of an object. White reflects all light while black absorbs all the wavelengths. A green lure reflects the green wavelengths and absorbs enough of the others so that it looks green. The amount of light that a metal surface reflects is

partly dependant on the kind of light that strikes it. For example some surfaces might reflect relatively more light under low light conditions at dusk or on a cloudy day. The quality of the metal surface also plays a role. Because of all the variables, we are going to generalize and just give approximate values as we describe the various metals used for spinner blades, spoons, and other metallic lures. Silver reflects the most light, something over 90%, and gives a very white flash because it is reflecting most

of the wavelengths of light. Gold is next in line, reflecting a percentage of light in the mid 80's. It obviously best reflects the yellow wavelengths giving it the color flash it has. Copper and brass, which is a copper and zinc alloy, generally reflect between 70 and 80 percent of the light that strikes their surface. Nickel and chromium are at the bottom of the list in their ability to reflect light, generally around 60% or less. Their flash is rather dark too because they are bouncing back a lesser amount of light. Nickel is a very popular metal lure finish because it looks good in the store and rarely tarnishes. Its mirror finish turns out to be a negative on a dark steelhead stream as it reflects its surroundings. Even though silver bounces back lots of light a shiny silver plate can also be mirror-like and not show up too well in a well shaded stream or in the depths of deep lakes. Thus I always use silver blades with more of a matte or frosty finish for my spinners when fishing turbid, stained, or well shaded water or on dark days. Gold has the advantage of never tarnishing and is a great finish for sunny days. Copper and brass are also good fin-



Above: Bob Bryans with a steelhead on a real silver spinner



Early spring steelhead on a gold spinner

ishes when the visibility is good. Nickel is a good finish for when the sun is out and the water is very clear.

Right: Blue Fox Classic Vibrax Spinner in Silver/Silver from FishUSA
www.fishusa.com



"Grayling"

Continued from page 1

Division Assistant Chief Todd Grischke.

Michigan's history with the Arctic Grayling is long and storied. A striking fish with a sail-like dorsal fin

and a slate blue color on its body, it was virtually the only native stream salmonid in the Lower Peninsula until the resident population died off nearly a century ago.

"The fact we have a town named after this fish indicates to me just how

iconic it was and still is to many in this state," Grischke said. "When you add in other factors - such as the fact they're only native to Michigan and Montana out of all the lower 48 states - it just adds to their legendary status."

In the 19th century, northern Michigan streams were filled with Arctic Grayling offering anglers plenty of opportunity to catch these unique fish. But a variety of factors slowly erased their presence, including the cutting of Michigan's vast virgin forest in the 1800s.

"Logging practices during that time period used streams to transport trees that were harvested. The streams carried logs to mills for processing," explained Grischke. "These practices greatly impacted the physical nature of those streams and basically destroyed stream habitats for fish, including grayling spawning areas."

Additionally, the physical cutting of the trees caused blockages in many of those same streams, often displacing grayling from where they lived.

But this was just one issue that affected Michigan's Arctic Grayling, yet another was the introduction of non-native fish species.

"Other types of trout were introduced into Michigan's waters to create additional opportunities for anglers to pursue - but a consequence of this action was that grayling couldn't compete with more ag-

gressive fish like brown, rainbow or brook trout," Grischke shared.

The final nail in the coffin was over fishing that occurred readily with people harvesting the grayling in large quantities with no possession limits or other regulations to stop them.

The last Arctic Grayling on record in Michigan were taken in 1936 but since that time natural resource managers have repeatedly looked for options to reintroduce it.

"In the late 1800s and early 1900s they tried stocking millions of Arctic Grayling fry into Michigan streams, but that didn't work," said Grischke. "And then in the 1980s we, the DNR, stocked hatchery-reared yearlings into lakes and streams, but again to no avail."

In each of these previous re-introduction efforts something critical was missing that prevented these populations from flourishing, but Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative hopes to rectify that.

"We have learned from the mistakes experienced during these previous re-introduction events and plan to capitalize on new approaches, dedicated partnerships, and advanced

The four focus areas on the Action Plan include research, management, fish production and outreach and education.

The research focus area will work on a variety of items; including understanding relationships between resident trout and grayling, prioritizing streams for grayling introduction, and evaluating in-stream Remote Site Incubators (RSIs). RSIs allow fish to be reared and released directly in the streams to better allow them to imprint to the waters they will hopefully reproduce in later on.

Better imprinting means the initiative will be one-step closer to establishing a self-sustaining population of Arctic Grayling, which is really the ultimate outcome of this effort.

Goals for the management focus area will include evaluating key habitat criteria, establishing population goals, and working on regulations related to fishing for grayling.

The fish production focus area's work will center on experimenting with Remote Site Incubator designs, ensuring fish health standards are upheld, and maintaining a genetically diverse broodstock which will be housed at a hatchery



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Coral Cables in downtown Saugatuck

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Above: Remote Site Incubators (RSIs)

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technology," Grischke explained.

Much of the initiative's focus is detailed in its official Action Plan, unveiled in July and reflective of the vast work to be done by the various partners. The group is gleaned as much information as possible from the state of Montana and their successful effort at re-establishing stable Arctic Grayling populations.

"Within our Action Plan we've identified four focus areas and associated goals that were developed by all the partners and that we believe will give us the best chance of success moving forward," said Grischke.

facility.

Lastly goals for the outreach and education focus area will be concentrated on informing the public on this initiative's efforts, identifying future partners, and creating a stewardship plan.

"The goals of these focus areas will be accomplished by partner representatives working together," Grischke shared. "The only way this initiative will be successful is if we continue to work together towards our mission."

If you'd like to learn more about Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative, visit migrayling.org.

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“Walleye”

Continued from page 6

most intense walleye bites. On some fisheries, walleye will also be more apt to eat much higher in the water column well after dark. We have seen many scenarios where we caught more walleye after dark by fishing half way down in the water column, especially for big fish. This is particularly true for set rods and tip ups with big bait.

Like any other time of year, full moon periods can make some after dark patterns better but there will often be feeding windows that happen in intense flurries through the night. Don't expect activity all night long, wait out the windows because ninety percent of the activity will happen during ten percent of the time.

My favorite after dark locations and patterns are not necessarily classic walleye structure or breaklines that are close to deeper water. Typically, large flats or even basins and large shelves shine after dark. I use the whitetail deer analogy a lot when describing walleye patterns and movements. During the day, deer might follow an edge but come middle of the night, they might be more apt to be standing out in the middle of a soybean field that is several hundred acres. Walleyes can also be just as random after dark.

Because the exact lo-

cation of fish can be so random on large flats and shelves, fishing these locations takes a certain kind of mentality. You can spread out tip ups to increase the chances of contacting these roaming fish or you can fish out of a shelter but in this situation, you have to realize that the fish are going to find you. This isn't a situation where you can necessarily move around to find these random fish, set up so that at some point during the night these fish find you. The beauty of fishing well after dark is that these fish will be looking for you. What makes after dark patterns for walleye so much fun is that these fish are typically much more aggressive and these fish are looking for a meal. The bites are often much more intense. These fish will peel off much more line off a tip up for example or hit a lure repeatedly.

When fishing after dark, I am a big proponent of using glow finishes on lures. Not always necessary but I have seen so many situations where we almost immediately caught a fish after charging a lure. When

using live bait on tip ups, don't hesitate to use larger baits that are up to eight inches long. Clip the tails of rambunctious chubs and suckers so that they can't trip flags or pull the roller around the spool. Strike indicators are nice to have on tip ups. Other nice tools for the grave yard shift include head lamps and LED lights for inside shelters. LED light sources have about replaced a lot of traditional propane lanterns.

What can make the after dark period so fun is the intensity of the mayhem. You can have an hour or two of complete silence interrupted by the most intense feeding windows. The bite is often a full on blitz where it seems like every line has a fish. Where every tip up is out of the water and there are fish flopping all over the ice. Realistically, this after dark window is what can make spending the night in a fish house so appealing. Tangled rattle reels and chaos. On so many fisheries, the period between sunset and sunrise offers some of ice fishing's most exciting walleye fishing.



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CATCHING CONDITIONED FISH

By Bob Jensen

It's that time of year when the fish are starting to get a little conditioned to our ice-fishing presentations. In fact, it's that time of year pretty much any time of the year. Fish truly do become conditioned to an angler's choice of lures. Conditioned means they quit hitting, or at least are less likely to eat a particular bait than they used to be. Some examples follow, and also a couple of ideas on how to deal with conditioned fish.

I remember way, way back in the day when my dad took me fishing with him to Wisconsin over the Memorial Day weekend. It was an annual event for several years. Walleyes were always the target, and we usually used jigs. Then one year we discovered these minnow shaped baits that looked like something a walleye would eat. They had a black back and a silver belly. Trolling was prohibited on the lakes we fished, so we drifted when the wind was strong enough. We pulled these baits on 3-way rigs and caught walleyes like we had never caught them before. This went on for several years before we noticed the catching decreasing. We couldn't figure out what had happened. Out of desperation to catch fish, we went to a tackle store to find a different bait to use. That's where we discovered the same bait in a different color: Orange back/gold belly. We got some, rigged them the same, went back to the lake and started catching walleyes all over again. We figured the fish must have got tired of the same bait and wanted something different. That was my first exposure to conditioned fish, but it made an impact.

A few years later, I got on a very hot small-mouth bass bite on a local river. They were heavily schooled on a deeper water structure, and they were eating marabou jigs and minnows. Orange jigs were what I liked at the time, and that's usually what I started with. But after catching a few bass, action slowed. I knew they were still down there, but I couldn't get them to eat my orange jig. Again, desperation, or at least a very strong desire to catch more bass, kicked in. I tried a different color jig and almost immediately started catching fish again. When they slowed on that color, I tried another, and caught a few more. Eventually they quit eating or they moved and I couldn't catch any more regardless of what I used, but I saw enough to know that those bass became conditioned to a particular color, and since then I've seen it with crappies and walleyes.

How about largemouth



Mike Frisch caught this big largemouth while fishing in the rushes with a swim-jig tipped with plastic.



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“Conditioned”
Continued on page 17

Love Those Deep Basin Panfish

By Jerry Carlson

Many times I have heard anglers share frustrations over the lack of winter panfish that are showing up in their favorite honey hole. I have been known to make the same complaints from time to time. However, I have also learned the remedy for staying on winter crappies and bluegills.

When it comes to location, I am all about deep basins. Although I do occasionally target some weed oriented fish on some very clear lakes, I usually prefer focusing on deep water during the winter months.

The migration to deep basins happens each fall as the water begins to cool and the fish start to set up in their winter hangouts. In fact, I have had some great success catching late fall panfish in the same locations I will look for them during the hard water period.

This annual move to deep basins happens on lakes that do not have gin clear water. Lakes with super clear water will often continue to support enough weed growth that panfish will stay shallow. However, on most lakes, when the weeds begin to die back in the fall, crappies, and sometimes bluegills, will move to a deep part of the lake.

On many of the lakes I winter fish, this deep hole, or deep basin, is found to be 25 to 35 feet deep. This depth often coincides with the deepest part of many of the mesotrophic lakes I target and is easy to locate on a lake map.

Occasionally, I will work deep crappies in over 40 feet of water. However, it is very difficult to release small fish when they are pulled up from these depths so I usually prefer water that is shallower.

There are two reasons that the deep basin migration takes place. First, fish seem to feel quite secure in the deep water. Secondly, there is little problem finding food.

The food part is easy to explain. All one has to do is examine the stomach contents of deep water panfish to realize they are eating plankton and invertebrates. The stomach contents will look like brown mush.

Although panfish will usually stage in the same locations each winter, there are other factors that may affect the quantity of these deep fish. Crappie populations can be very cyclical with years of high numbers and periods of low populations.

Also, these deep suspended fish are often susceptible to heavy harvest. This can reduce the number of fish available to be caught.

Because of these factors, I have a dozen or more

lakes I check out each winter. Some years one lake produces while other years, I find the best bite in another location.

Often times, these suspended fish I target are known to many other anglers. It is common to see a cluster of ice houses over these winter panfish holes. Although this may not be ideal, I find that by fishing during the day, there is little competition at these honey holes.

Once last factor to consider. Because these fish are suspended, they are easy to locate with your electronics. If I don't mark suspended fish up off of the bottom, I keep moving.

When I do find suspended fish signals, my most successful presentation is a small tungsten glow jig tipped with Euro larvae. I often thread on Maki plastic to use in conjunction with the larva.

Deep basins are ideal winter locations for panfish. They are easy to find, easy to check out and produce plenty of action.

About the author:
Jerry started his outdoor career in 1987 when he began writing for Outdoors Weekly. He currently writes about a 130 articles a year for various publications in the Midwest. In addition to writing and giving numerous hunting and fishing seminars, Jerry does weekly radio shows on two St. Cloud, Minnesota stations; WJON and WWJO. He also authored a book called Details for Locating and Catching Fish. Hunting and fishing photos and articles written by Jerry, along with his email

address, can be found at jerrycarlsonoutdoors.com. Jerry fishes all species but prefers crappies in the winter and bass in the summer. He also loves to hunt Canada geese in the fall.

Author Jerry Carlson holds up his deep basin fishing rewards.



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Fishing the Midwest

By Bob Jensen

I haven't been able to do as much ice-fishing as I would like so far this year. Between Holidays, hazardous travel and such, I've just been home-bound more than usual. When that happens, I start thinking, and when I think about fishing, I think of places I've been and places that I want to return to. Following are some of those places.



Big Stone Lake, Minnesota

Big Stone Lake on the Minnesota-South Dakota border has changed as a fishery in the past number of years. Back in the mid-80's when I first visited Big Stone, walleyes were the deal, and the walleye population on Big Stone is still very good.

Then I went ice-fishing on Big Stone. We caught perch: Lots of 'em and nice ones. Perch fishing through the ice on Big Stone continues to be outstanding. I should be out there right now.

Most recently, large-mouth bass and bluegills have taken some of the limelight on Big Stone. With all these different species available in good numbers, you can almost always find action on Big Stone Lake. Big Stone truly is an outstanding destination for the angler. Learn more about Big Stone Lake at www.bigstonelake.com or call 320-839-3284.



Clear Lake, Iowa

I should also be ice-fishing on Clear Lake in north central Iowa. Clear Lake is another lake that's changed greatly, and for the better, in the past decade or so. Clear Lake didn't used to be so clear, and it also didn't have the variety and quality of fish that it now does. Water improvement projects have enabled walleye, musky, and panfish populations to increase dramatically. Walleyes are everyone's favorite, but in Clear Lake, yellow bass are exceptionally popular in open water and through the ice. Yellow bass are outstanding on the table, and you can keep as many as you want. Clear Lake has truly become one of the Midwest's premier fishing lakes. Check Clear Lake out at www.clearlakeiowa.com or call 800-285-5338.

"Midwest"
Continued on page 23

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developed might measure an inch or more. Matching the hatch is often a phrase or cliché that gets thrown around a lot in fishing circles but some of the most effective presentations for winter crappie follow a different mantra.

Winter crappie locations might mean a flooded brush pile or submerged tree along a channel edge on a reservoir. Natural lakes might have weed and reed patterns. Regardless of ecosystem however, crappie are notorious for suspending and roaming over open water. Over this massive abyss, matching the hatch isn't practical because finding and catching fish is often a game of straight up logistics. Use a realistic duplication of a backswimmer that is a quarter of an inch long and fish that drift by ten feet away... might not ever see you. Fish six feet below you might not see you. So often, larger easier to find and see profiles catch more crappie simply because more fish come over to investigate. Once the fish close the distance and get close enough to scrutinize the bait, the lure simply has to look similar to something the fish has eaten before.

So often when using these larger soft plastic profiles that might measure an inch or more, the presentation becomes a game of keep away where you attempt to keep the presentation above the fish so that the fish has to accelerate and rise. Bigger profiles move fish from further away. Attempt to get an aggressive reaction from the fish. So often when working soft plastics, there are often two basic thought processes to experiment with... be the bug or be the minnow.

Replicating minnow movements might mean more abrupt slashes and snaps on the upstroke to raise fish. The smaller movements that happen as the fish gets closer might resemble upward hops with stops and shakes mixed in. Replicating bug movements might consist of simply quivering the tentacles and vibrating the rod tip to impart a pulsating action to the soft plastic. You can still raise the jig and pull fish up but the actions are more methodical while pulsating the soft plastic tail the entire time. From there you can mix and match to the mood of the fish and the situation you are fishing. Remember as well that you can "be the minnow" or "be the bug" with the same fish interested in the same jig. Mix and match until the fish either bites or swims away.

Now this isn't to say there are not situations where small bug profiles shine. Not to say that tiny finesse plastics don't catch crappie because they do. Day in and day out however

Soft Plastic Insights for Crappie

By Jason Mitchell

Some of the greatest lures of all time don't necessarily look like anything in

particular but at the same time have the general appearance of something that a fish wants to eat. Trout anglers often fall back on a

simple wooly bugger which we can argue can look like a caddis fly larvae or perhaps a damsel fly nymph... not really a spitting image

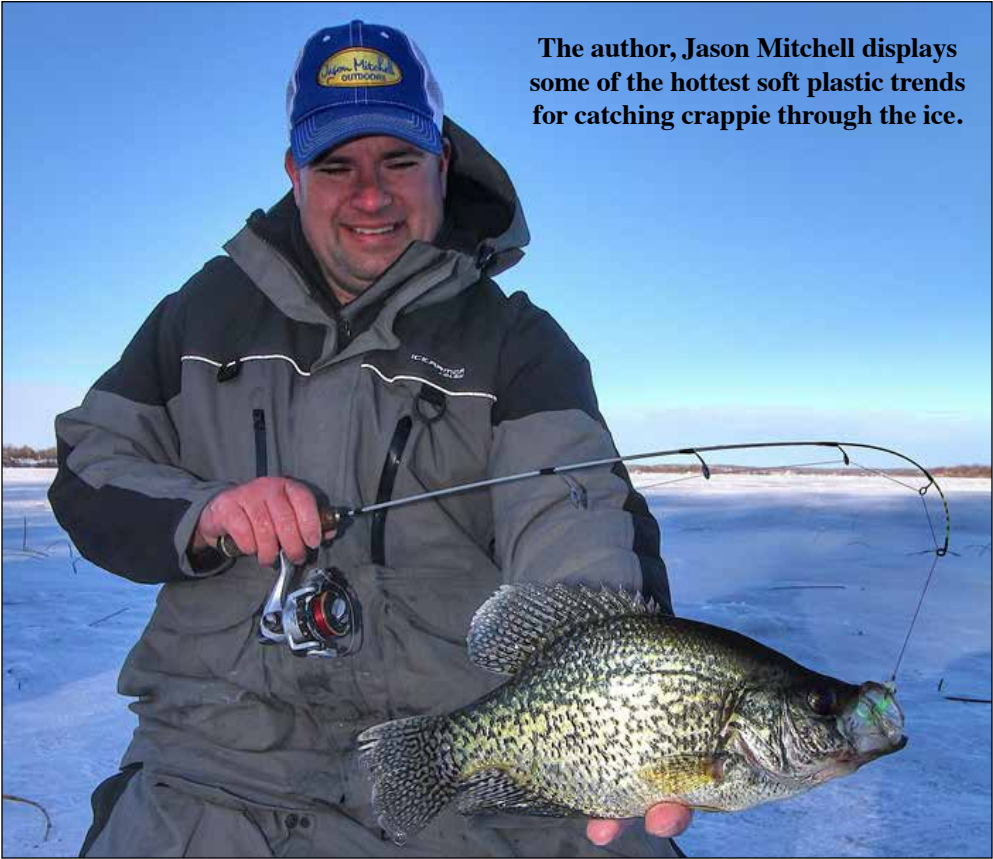
of anything specific but looks kinda, sorta like a lot of things. A classic tube jig is one of the greatest smallmouth bass lures of all time... kind of looks like a crawfish, maybe a goby... could be something else depending on how you fish it.

As more ice anglers embrace the soft plastics, classics are beginning to emerge. While soft plastics fished correctly simply catch anything that swims, there is no doubt that the combination of tungsten paired up with soft plastic is particularly deadly on catching crappie through the ice. The original white Maki plastic has quickly become to winter crappie fishing what the classic motor oil tube jig is to smallmouth bass.

The classic Maki doesn't look like anything specific, could be a young of the year fish, perhaps an insect larvae or water beetle. Like so many productive lures, the shape, profile, action and water displacement aren't necessarily a dead

ringer for any specific living thing but just an overall look that mimics several living organisms that fish eat. During the winter, the diet for black crappie can range from zooplankton like Daphnia to larval insects like Chironomid, aquatic insects like back swimmers, crustaceans like freshwater shrimp or other fish; spot tailed shiners, young of the year perch, dace minnows or fathead minnows. Black crappies are notorious for foraging on zooplankton because the fish's gill rakes allow them to filter feed. Typically suspending schools of black crappie are consuming a lot of zooplankton with larger forage items mixed in to the menu when the opportunity presents itself.

Despite the fact that so much of a black crappies diet during the winter can consist of tiny microscopic invertebrates and zooplankton that are less than a quarter of an inch long, some of the greatest jig and plastic combinations ever



The author, Jason Mitchell displays some of the hottest soft plastic trends for catching crappie through the ice.

“Soft Plastic”
Continued on page 17

“Soft Plastic”
Continued from page 16

er, many ice anglers have discovered that bigger is often better for the simple fact that fish can find and see the presentation from a greater distance. The more fish you can pull into the cone angle of your electronics and the more fish you get a chance at, the more fish you can possibly catch.



The original Maki is about an inch-long profile that has five tentacles, resembling more of a squid than anything a crappie actually eats but this easy to find profile set the trend that has caught so many crappies for ice anglers over the past decade. Other profiles that fish big in

the water include the Maki Draggi and the Maki Jaimei. As these soft plastic designs became more popular, ice anglers demanded even larger profiles like the Maxi Maki and the Minni XL.

Despite the fact that crappie might be sucking in zooplankton, these fish are indeed predators that have a mouth big enough to fit a golf ball. Soft plastic options that fish can see from several feet away can simply catch more fish. Finding fish is simply the most important component of catching fish and the soft plastics that are changing crappie fishing do a really good job of also enabling the fish to find you. You will find more crappie suspended over the abyss this winter and catch more fish if the fish can simply find you. A profile, a silhouette, a contrast of color that is twenty or more feet away can simply be enough for the entire pack to roam your direction.

The combination of the

larger profiled soft plastics in conjunction with horizontal tungsten jigs enable you to fish through water faster and the added weight of tungsten also displaces more water and imparts more action on the soft plastic. The entire system working together can be seen and felt from further away. Start out fishing big in order to track down the fish. If need be, you can always scale down after you accomplish the most difficult task (finding the fish). Most days, however you won't have to scale down. Throw the matching the hatch ideal out the window this winter. Simply attempt to find and contact as many fish as possible and you will catch more crappie this winter.

About the author:
The author Jason Mitchell is credited with pioneering many modern ice tactics for walleyes and earned a reputation as a renowned ice fishing guide on Devils Lake, North Dakota with the Perch Patrol



The CPT Tungsten jigs paired up with large profile soft plastics might not replicate anything specific found in the food chain but what these profiles do well is moving fish over to your location from greater distances a key component for catching more suspended crappie.

Guide Service before a career in outdoor television. Jason Mitchell Outdoors Television can be viewed on

FSN North at 9:30 Sunday mornings and FSN Midwest at 8:30 am Saturday mornings. Show schedule

can be found at www.jason-mitchelloutdoors.com.

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“Conditioned”
Continued from page 13

bass? A spinnerbait used to be one of my favored presentations when fishing rushes. I've caught lots of bass on spinnerbaits. Then we started using swim-jigs in the rushes, and we started catching bass better on them than on spinnerbaits. Those bass had seen lots of spinnerbaits, but not so many swim-jigs. I still won't go bass fishing in the rushes without a spinnerbait tied onto a rod, but for now, the swim-jig will probably get more water-time.

This time of year it's particularly noticeable that fish get conditioned through the ice. A particular bait gets hot and that's what everyone uses. The fish that are susceptible to that presentation eventually become less likely to take it. Change to something different and they'll probably be more willing to accept it.

Just remember that using what used to work isn't always the answer. When the fish quit hitting what you're using, use something else and you'll increase your odds for better fishing action.

To see new and old episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, new and archived articles, and fishing video tips, go to fishingthemidwest.com

From page 4:

Riddle #1 Answer
Only three people went on the fishing trip. A grandfather, a father and a son. The grandfather is one of the fathers, the father is one of the fathers and one of the sons and the son is one of the sons. In total there are two fathers and two sons!

Riddle #2 Answer
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Michigan Bills Could Dramatically Alter State’s Environmental Law

by Mitch Barrows
Freshwaterfuture.org

Michiganers, we need your help to stop two sets of bills that would undermine existing environmental protections and dramatically change how our environmental laws are implemented. If passed, these bills could impact all environmental law in Michigan, for years to come.

Senate Bill 652
Transfers decision-making power from environmental experts to a committee of stakeholders comprised primarily of industry representatives. There is no requirement that committee members have environmental science education, training, or

experience—only that they have a stake in the outcome of decisions.

House Bill 5333
Creates a “science advisory board” filled with political appointees by the governor. None of these board members are allowed to work at relevant state agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Natural Resources, or the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development—excluding first-hand knowledge from environmental experts in these departments. At worst, this advisory board would serve as a political tool. At best, this advisory board would be unnecessary and redundant.

Senate Bill 653 and House Bill 5332 change the appeal process for environmental permit applicants. DEQ decisions—like denied permits for mining or for development in wetlands—could be appealed to a board of the governor’s political appointees, and their decisions would be final.

TAKE ACTION
Email your Michigan senator and representative today. Tell them you want experts—not industry—making the state’s environmental decisions; tell them to vote “NO” on this collection of bills.
Visit freshwaterfuture.org for links to contact your government and take action.

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5 Things You Can Do To Protect The Great Lakes

Megan Feeley
Freshwaterfuture.org

Small actions can make a big difference! At Freshwater Future, we help thousands of communities around the Great Lakes protect their local waters so that, together, we can protect the whole of the Great Lakes. Individual actions are powerful, too! Here are five little things with big impact that you can do to help keep our lakes healthy and clean.

1. Watch What You Wash
One load of laundry can

release more than 700,000 microscopic plastic fibers into the water system, polluting our waterways and disrupting the food chain. These fibers are shed in the wash from clothing made from synthetic textiles like fleece, acrylic, nylon, and polyester. They're too small to be filtered out by most wastewater treatment plants, so they end up in our rivers and lakes. To minimize shedding, wash synthetic clothes less frequently, and wash full loads in cold water with liquid—not powder—detergent. Bonus points for installing a wash-

ing machine filter to capture the microplastics released with each load of laundry!

2. Go Fertilizer-Free
Nitrogen and phosphorus contribute to the growth of algae, which—in a balanced aquatic ecosystem—provides food for fish and other aquatic life. But too much nitrogen and phosphorus is entering our waterways as a result of runoff pollution from fertilizers, creating an overabundance of algae. Toxic algal blooms

“Protect”
Continued on page 19

Fish Tacos With Garlic Lime Crema

Author: Natasha of
NatashasKitchen.com

Our all-time favorite fish tacos recipe! These are loaded with fresh ingredients and perfectly seasoned plump fish. Don't skip the best fish taco sauce - an irresistible garlic lime crema. This recipe is party sized and can be scaled down to feed a smaller crowd.

Prep time: 30 mins
Cook time: 25 mins
Total time: 55 mins



Skill Level: Easy
Cost To Make: \$20-\$25
Serving: 24 tacos

Ingredients:
24 small white corn tortillas
1 1/2 to 2 lb tilapia
1/2 tsp ground cumin
1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp black pepper
Olive oil
1 Tbsp Butter

Sauce:
1/2 cup sour cream
1/3 cup Mayo
2 Tbsp lime juice (from 1 medium lime)
1 tsp garlic powder
1 tsp Sriracha sauce, or to taste

Toppings:
1/2 small purple cabbage,
2 medium avocado, sliced
2 roma tomatoes, diced
1/2 diced red onion,
1/2 bunch Cilantro, longer stems removed
4 oz (1 cup) Cotija cheese, grated*
1 lime cut into 8 wedges to serve

**Cotija cheese is a Mexican cheese that crumbles when you grate it; similar to feta but much milder in flavor and not nearly as salty. It is inexpensive and found in the refrigerated cheese section of the grocery store.*

Directions:
1. Line a large baking sheet with parchment or silicone liner. In a small dish, stir together seasonings: 1/2 tsp cumin, 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper, 1 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp black pepper and evenly sprinkle the seasoning mix over both sides of tilapia.

2. Lightly drizzle fish with olive oil and top each piece with a dot of butter. Baked at 375°F for 20-25 min. If you want it to get a little browned around the edges, you can broil for 3-5 minutes at the end if desired.

3. Combine all the Taco sauce ingredients: 1/2 cup

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2018 Pro Am

May 19th & 20th

Jason Blowers Photography

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ENTRY FEES:

Received before May 12, 2018:	Received May 12, 2018 or after:	DIVISIONAL:
Pro: \$500	Pro: \$550	All Species
Am: \$250	Am: \$300	Big Fish Contest
		\$50 entry fee

For more information:
Chad Bard
269-214-6934 or go to:
www.southhavensteelheaders.com

sour cream, 1/3 cup Mayo, 2 Tbsp lime juice (from 1 medium lime), 1 tsp garlic powder, 1 tsp Sriracha sauce, or to taste in a medium bowl or a large measuring cup and whisk together until well blended. It's really fun and feels like dining out to serve the sauce in a squeeze bottle like this one.

4. To serve the tacos, toast quickly toast the corn tortillas on a large dry skillet or griddle over medium/high heat.

5. To assemble: start with the fish then add remaining ingredients finishing off with a generous sprinkle of cotija cheese and finally that awesome taco sauce!

“Protect”
Continued from page 18
can poison fish, contaminate drinking water, and shut down beaches. Choose a phosphorus-free fertilizer, or better yet, skip the fertilizer altogether and replace your lawn with native plants to filter out pollutants.

3. Ditch the Aquatic Hitchhikers
Humans have introduced more than 186 invasive species to the Great Lakes ecosystem. You can help prevent their spread by rinsing and wiping down your boats, paddleboards, kayaks, and other watercraft after use. Be sure to remove all visible plant and animal species, and let the watercraft dry completely before setting out in a new

body of water. Don't forget that parts of the craft not exposed to the sun or proper air circulation—such as ballast and bait tanks, live wells, and bilge areas—will take extra time to dry.

4. Dispose of Meds Properly
Traces of pharmaceutical drugs—including antibiotics, hormones, and psychoactive drugs—can be found in the drinking water supplies of over 40 million Americans. When we ingest medications, our bodies don't absorb the full dosage and we expel the unused portion. Most water treatment systems can't filter this out, and traces of our medications end up in groundwater, lakes, and rivers—disrupting the ecosystem. To reduce your impact, take only the medication you need, and dispose of unused pills properly—do not flush them down the toilet.

5. Get Political
Individual actions to reduce your impact on Earth's resources are important, but nothing can match the magnitude of society-wide shifts in energy and conservation policy. Vote for candidates who are committed to protecting our water, get involved in local campaigns, talk to your representatives, or better yet, run for office yourself!

The Salmon Tournament to Catch

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2018 AuSable Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
Information TBD. Meetings to begin in April. Contact Gene Kirvan at calypsocharters@yahoo.com for inquiries.			

2018 Battle Creek Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
March	3	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Location pending
March	10	Swap Meet	Kalamazoo Eagles
March	17	Kalamazoo River Spring Steelhead	Allegan Dam
April	14	Lake Michigan Coho Blast	Benton Harbor
May	12	Lake Michigan Weigh 3 Trip Swap	Benton Harbor
June	1-2	Connie McGowan Invitational	(Captain must be a member) - Lake Erie
July	14	Portage Lake Pan Fish/Family Picnic	Vicksburg
August	4	Lake Michigan Memorial	South Haven
October	6	Kalamazoo River Salmon Slam	Allegan Dam
October	20	Kalamazoo River Memorial	Allegan Dam
October	27	Kalamazoo River Trout Quest	Allegan Dam
November	24	St. Joe River Fall Steelhead	I-94 Boat Ramp
December	1	St. Joe River Chapter Challenge	Elks Lodge Benton Harbor
December	8	Christmas Party	Kalamazoo Eagles
Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 6:00 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting Location: Moonraker West Battle Creek			
FOR MORE INFORMATION: River Tournaments – Ice Tournaments – Justin Kling 491-2980 Lake Tournaments – Greg Peck 998-9407 battlecreeksteelheaders.com			

2018 Grand Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Contact Info
April	TBD	Placement of net pens	Roger Belter	rbelter@altelco.net
April	TBD	Spring meeting, program	Roger Belter	rbelter@altelco.net
July	28	Member Weeklong + fishing contest begins	July 28 - August 9	mjbelter@altelco.net
August	2	Sportsmen for Youth Fundraiser/ dinner		https://sportsmenforyouth.com/
August	9	Chapter picnic, weeklong fishing contest awards	Rycenga Park, Spring Lake Twp.	mjbelter@altelco.net
September	8	Sportsmen for Youth Day	Muskegon County Fairgrounds	https://sportsmenforyouth.com/
September	14-15	Grand Haven Salmon Festival	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location	www.ghsalmonfest.com/
September	15	Salmon Festival KidZone activity area	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location	www.ghsalmonfest.com/
September	15	GH Steelheaders - Salmon Festival Big Fish Contest - Tentative	Grand Haven Waterfront/City Marina location	www.ghsalmonfest.com/ mjbelter@altelco.net
November	30	Member Year Long Fishing contest ends		
December	TBD	Annual meeting, dinner, recognitions		
For more information on Grand Haven Steelheaders activities, contact: Roger Belter - 616-842-0877 or rogerbelter@gmail.com www.ghsteelheaders.com				

2018 Grand Rapids Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
March	5	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
March	15-18	Ultimate Sports Show	DeVos Place
March	15-17	Ultimate Sports Show Fishing Contest	DeVos Place
March	26	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
March	31	Year Long Fish Contest Ends	
April	1	Year Long Fish Contest Starts	
April	2	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
April	7	Spring River Contest Grand & Muskegon Rivers and their Tributaries	STC*
April	30	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
May	7	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
May	19	Spring Big Lake	STC*
May	21	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
June	4	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
June	8-10	Lake Erie 3-Day Walleye Contest	
June	25	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
July	2	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
July	11	Chapter Family Picnic	6:00 PM Johnson Park Shelter House **
August	6	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
August	18	Fall Big Lake Salmon/Trout 2/1 Contest	STC*
August	27	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
September	10	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
September	24	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
October	1	Chapter Buck Contest Begins **	
October	1	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
October	29	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
November	3	Fall River Contest Grand & Muskegon Rivers and their Tributaries	STC*
November	5	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
November	10	Fishing Partners Manistee Contest	STC*
November	26	Membership Meeting	7:30 PM Social Hour 6:30 PM
December	3	Board of Directors Meeting	7 PM
December	10	Chapter Family Christmas Party	6 PM Diamond Hall
STC* = Date subject to change ** = Members and Family Only. (All other events open to the public)			

2018 Great Lakes Bay Region Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Comments / Contact Info
March	10	Big Manistee, Bear Creek	Call Mark Trudell 989-615-0481 for details on Big Manistee River events.
March	24	Annual Auction Fund Raiser	Held at the VFW Hall, Midland Mi. Preview at 11:00 a.m./ Auction at noon. Food Concession available.
April	28	Opening day of Walleye on the Tittibawassee River	Daybreak to 2:00 p.m. Weigh in at 3:00 p.m. Held at Don Brown's home with lunch to follow. 989-600-8455
May	12	Manistee	Salmon Outing 5:30 am - 1:00 pm
June	2	Sebewaing Harbor Marina	Walleye outing 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Bring a child for a great day of fun
June	23	Grindstone	Walleye outing 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
July	14	Manistee	Salmon outing 5:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
July	28	Ludington	Salmon outing 5:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
July	29	Ludington Day 2	Salmon outing 5:30 a.m. – noon
August	11	Ludington	Salmon outing 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
August	25	Manistee	Salmon outing 6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
August	26	Manistee Day 2	Salmon outing 6:00 a.m. – noon
December	8	Christmas/Awards Banquet	Cocktails 5:00 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m. Bring family and friends! K of C Hall Auburn, Mi 48611
December	15	Big Manistee, Bear Creek	Call Mark Trudell 989-615-0481
Membership meetings held at: 3013 Bay City Road, Midland, MI 48642 989-496-3410 Board meetings: 6:00 pm / Membership meetings: 7:15 pm All Board/Membership meetings are held first Tuesday of each month with the exception of June, July and August. A raffle is held following all membership meetings. BRING A FRIEND! All membership meetings are open to the public. Register via Marine Radio channel 72 at beginning of all events. Weigh in's and picnics follow at 2:00 pm. If interested in fishing with us please email: kathy@steel-headers.com. Visit our web page www.steel-headers.com			

2018 Holland Steelheader’s Calendar of Events		
Month	Date	Event
March	5	Board Meeting
April	2	Board Meeting
April	19	General Membership Meeting
May	7	Board Meeting
May	19	Holland Steelheaders Spring Challenge
May	22	Tuesday Night League Kick-off
June	4	Board Meeting
June	9	All Species Tournament
June	23	Kids N' Kings Tournament
July	9	Board Meeting
July	14	Veteran's Fishing Outing
July	26	General Membership Meeting/Captain's Meeting
July	28	Holland Steelheaders Summer Challenge
August	3-5	Big Red Classic
August	6	Board Meeting
August	18	Holland Steelheaders Ladies Tournament
September	4	Tuesday Fish League Final Night
September	10	Board Meeting
October	1	Board Meeting
November	5	Board Meeting
December	1	River Tournament
December	3	Board Meeting
December	6	General Membership Meeting
Membership meetings held at: Yacht Basin Yacht Club 1862 Ottawa Beach Road, Holland MI 49424 Social hour at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm Call board members to find out location of board meetings. For event information, go to hollandsteelheaders.org, or call Jeremy Erdman 616-510-9405, or email Steve Weatherwax at Waxer1221@Yahoo.com		

2018 Metro West - Livonia Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Chair
March	1-4	OUTDOOR- RAMA Showplace Novi	Chair: Robert Grech/Chris Christoph
March	6	General Membership Meeting	
March	10	SPORTSMAN'S BANQUET – Burton Manor	Contact: MWS Board
March	15-18	Novi Boat Show Showplace, Novi	Chair: Jordan Pontoni/Chris Christoph
March	24	MI Steelhead Challenge Manistee River/Pier with DS/TCAS	Chair: Adam Trenz/Eric Braden pier
April	3	General Membership Meeting	
April	7	New Buffalo Coho Tournament	Chair: Dave Hutton/Dennis Cheshure
April	14	Detroit River/Lake Erie & St Clair Walleye Invitational	Chair: Denny Cheshure/Bill Gagnon
April	21	Brown Trout Tournament Ludington w TCAS	Chair: Eric Braden/Dave Hutton
April	21	Muskegon River Tournament	Chair: Phil Bustos
April	28	Brown Trout Tournament Manistee w TCAS	Chair: Zawacki/Ringer
May	1	General Membership Meeting	
May	5	TCAS Brown Trout Tourn. @ Frankfort w MWS	Chair: Richardson/McDonald
May	5	Kent Lake Blue Gill Kayak/Small boat	Chair: Mark Davis
May	12	Toledo Beach Memorial Walleye Tourn. &Vets	Chair: Larry Tabaka
May	19	Benton Harbor Salmon Tournament	Chair: Chris Thompson/Kruszewski
May	26	Kelley's Island Walleye Tournament w HV	Chair: Phil & Dennis Kelley
June	2	Kids Fishing Outing at Kensington Park	Chair: Brad Allan
June	5	General Membership Meeting	
June	9	Grand/Southhaven Salmon Pier Event	Chair: Eric Braden
June	16	Lake Erie Walleye Tournament - Sat w HV	Chair: Dennis Kelley/Jeff K
June	23	Rogers City Salmon Tournament	Chair: Jordan Pontoni



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2018 Metro West - Livonia ...continued			
Month	Date	Event	Chair
June	30	Walleye Tournament (Saginaw Bay or L. Erie)	Chair: Fabian Sepulveda
July	6	Erieau Tournament - Erieau, Canada	Chair: Clyde Schoen
July	7	Erieau Tournament - Erieau, Canada	Chair: Ron Bellemore/Henry Nabors
July	7	Manistee River Clean-up Day	Chair: Roger Hinchcliff
July	14	Clinton River Clean-up Day	Chair: Jay Labban
July	19	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Thu w TCAS	Chair: Gale Frazee/Tom Abdelnour
July	21	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat w TCAS/HV	Chair: Dennis Kelley
July	22	Ludington Salmon Tournament – Sat w TCAS/HV	Chair: Dave Zawacki/Ted Ringer
August	7	General Membership Meeting	
August	4	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sat w TCAS	Chair: Henry Nabors/Bill Gagnon
August	5	Salmon Tournament – Manistee – Sun w TCAS	Chair: Marc Traver
August	11	Salmon Tournament – Frankfort w TCAS	Chair: Tom Hesch/Bill Dodge
August	14	Club Summer Picnic	Chair: Jim Robertson/Dave Zawacki
August	25	Holland Salmon Tournament	Chair: Larry Tabaka
September	4	General Membership Meeting	
September	8	Lake & River Tournament – Frankfort w/TCAS	Chair: M/D (MWS/TCAS) Hartrick/A Trenz
September	17	Captain/Crew/River Angler 2019 Calendar Mtg	Chair: Kelley/P. Bustos/Nabors/Grech
September	15	Manistee Pier Jamboree	Chair: Adam Trenz
September	22	Manistee River Tournament w/TCAS	Chair: Adam Trenz
September	29	Detroit River Kayak/Small boat	Chair: Eric Braden
October	2	General Membership Meeting	
October	6	Ohio Steelhead Alley (include Elk Creek P.A.)	Chair: Phil Bustos
October	13	Manistee River Tournament	Chair: Fabian Sepulveda
October	27	Huron Walleye Tournament w HVS	Chair: Jim Robertson
November	3	River Tourn./Pier & Shore Outing Manistee w DS	Chair: Dave Zawacki/Eric Braden
November	6	General Membership Meeting	
December	4	CHRISTMAS PARTY - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	
December	8	Huron River Tournament	Chair: Hinchcliff/Davis
** ALL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**			
7:00 PM at The New Livonia Seniors Center at the Southeast Corner of Farmington Road and Five Mile Road			
WEB Site: Go to www.metroweststeelheaders.org			
If you have questions, contact Henry Nabors - HHNabors@Ameritech.net or call 248 225 4964.			
Contact: <i>President</i> Larry Tabaka 313-215-8979 / <i>Membership Director</i> Henry Nabors 248-225-4964			

2018 South Haven Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	
March	22	Board and Membership Meetings	*week after GR Ultimate Sports Show
	22	Best Chance Fishing Seminar	South Haven Moose Lodge
April	19	Board and Membership Meetings	
	19	Lake Michigan Fisheries Workshop	South Haven Moose Lodge
May	5	Michigan City Tournament	
May	12	St. Joe Tourney/SW Chapter Saturday	
May	17	Board and Membership Meetings	*prior to SHS Pro/Am
May	18-20	South Haven Tourney	
May	26	Memorial Day Weekend Holiday	
June	2	OPEN	
June	9-10	SHS Ladies Tournament/Free Fishing Weekend	
June	14	Board and Membership Meetings	
June	16	Harborfest	
June	23	OPEN	
June	30	Independence Day Holiday	
July	7	OPEN	
July	14	OPEN	
July	19	Board and Membership Meetings	
July	21	OPEN	
July	28	OPEN	
August	11	SHS Fish Boil (Blueberry Festival Aug. 9-12)	
August	16	Board and Membership Meetings	
August	18	SHS Operation Injured Soldier/SH Salute to Veterans	
September	1	Labor Day Weekend	
September	8	SHS/BC/SW Tri-Chapter Perch Tournament (Tentative)	
September	20	Board and Membership Meetings - prioritize and set next year’s events. Identify event chairs	
October	18	Board and Membership Meetings - finalize next year’s events and set calendar	
November	7	The Pro Am Tournament Committee Kick-off meeting	
November	15	Board and Membership Meetings	
November	24	SHS River Tournament	
December	6	The Local Tournament Committee Annual meeting (if necessary)	
December	8	SHS Holiday Party 2018	
Note: All Board and membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month except in January and March.			
Membership Meetings Held at:			
South Haven Moose Lodge, 1025 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49040			
For more information email: president@southhavensteelheaders.com			

2018 Southwest MI Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info
March	8	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
April	12	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
May	10-12	Summer Challenge Tournament	
June	TBD	Kids Fishing Event	
June	14	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
July	12	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 7:00 PM
August	24	Trolling with the Troops	Continued...

2018 Southwest MI ...continued				
Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info	
September	13	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge	7:00 PM
October	11	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge	7:00 PM
November	8	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge	7:00 PM
December	1	Winter Chapter Challenge Tournament		
December	13	Membership Meeting	St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge	7:00 PM
Membership Meetings Held at:				
St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks 541, 601 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor MI 49022				
Monthly meeting second Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM				
No meetings in May or August				
Contact: Jim Marohn 269-208-2784				

2018 TCAS Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Location / Contact Info
March	7	General Membership Meeting	
March	16-18	Michigan Hunting Fishing Expo	
April	4	General Membership Meeting	
April	21	MWS Brown Trout Tournament Ludington	
April	28	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament	Tim Potter/Howard Seaver
May	2	General Membership Meeting	
May	5	Brown Trout Tournament Frankfort	Carl MacDonald/Randy Richardson
May	19	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament	Tim Potter/Howard Seaver
June	2	Torch Lake Salmon Tournament	Joe Cruzen/Randy Richardson
	6	General Membership Meeting	
	30	Lake Skegemog/Elk Lake Tournament	Howard Seaver/Jim Heegeman
June 30 - July 7		2018 National Cherry Festival – NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING or Board Meetin	
July	14	Lake Charlevoix Tournament	Tim Potter/Joe Rhode
July	19, 21-22	MWS Salmon Tournament	Ludington
August	1	General Membership Meeting	
August	4,5	MWS Salmon Tournament	Manistee
August	11	MWS Salmon Tournament	Frankfort
August	18	Lake Bellaire Tournament	Tim Potter/Rich Wilks
August	25	Grand Traverse Bay Tournament (Elk Rapids)	Joe Cruzen/Joe Rhode
September	5	General Membership Meeting	
September	8	MWS Salmon Tournament	Frankfort
September	15	Crystal Lake Tournament	Howard & Judy Seaver
September	22	MWS Manistee River Tournament	
September	29	Senior Center Fish Fry	
October	3	General Membership Meeting	
October	20	2019 Port Captain’s Meeting	
November	7	General Membership Annual Meeting	
December	1	Christmas Party – Tentative date	
Membership Meetings Held at:			
Traverse City Senior Center, 801 Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686			
* Ice Fishing Tournaments will be cancelled if ice is deemed unsafe.			

2018 Thumb Chapter Steelheader’s Calendar of Events				
Month	Date	Event	Information	Location
March	15	Regular Meeting	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
April	19	Regular Meeting	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
April	21	Fish Fry	7:00 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
May	5	Can2Can Fishing Tournament	6:00 am	Harbor Beach Marina
May	17	Regular Meeting	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
June	2	ProKing Fishing Tournament	6:00 am	Harbor Beach Marina
June	9	Veterans Fishing Outing	6:00 am Contact Kevin Ramsey for details	Harbor Beach Marina
June	21	Regular Meeting	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
July	19	Regular Meeting	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
August	12	Pig Roast	2:00 pm	Stafford Park
August	16	Ladies Night	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
September	20	Regular Meeting w/ Tackle Swap	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
October	18	Regular Meeting - Election of Board/Officers	7:30 pm	Ulby Foxhunters
November	TBD			
December	TBD			
Contact Scott Stanke at 989-553-0972 for inquiries.				

2018 Thunderbay Steelheader’s Calendar of Events			
Month	Date	Event	Information
March	5	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
April	2	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
May	7	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
May	19	Alpena Tournament	6:00 AM
June	4	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
June	9	Presque Isle Tournament	6:00 AM
July	2	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
August	6	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
September	3	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
October	1	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
November	5	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
December	3	Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM
Continued...			
Contact rgoloch@comcast.net or dist24cm@aol.com for inquiries.			



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2018 White River Steelheader's Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Event	Information
March	1	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
April	5	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
May	4	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
June	7	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
July		No meeting	
August	2	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
September	6	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
October	4	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
November	1	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm
December	6	Meeting at the Montague VFW	6:00 pm

Contact whpollock@netzero.net for inquiries.

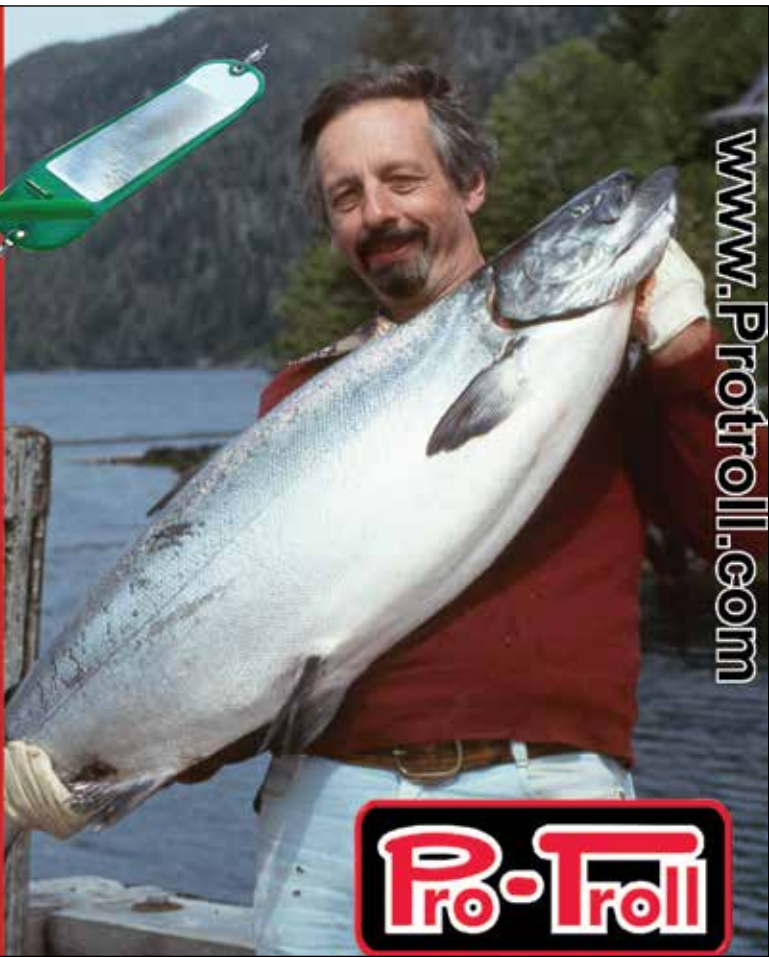
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Kevan Paul, Clear Lake Fishing Guide, with a spring walleye. Walleyes this size are not unusual on Clear Lake at any time of the year.

“Midwest”
Continued from page 15

One more fishing location that I have developed a real fondness for: Kabetogama Lake in northern Minnesota. I would enjoy Kab even if it had no fish. Kab is wilderness although it's not very far away from all the creature comforts. You'll probably see deer, eagles, beavers, waterfowl, maybe a bear or a family of otters, you just never know what's around the next island, and most people like that.

And, best of all, Kab has fish: Many, many fish. Big ones and eaters. Depending on when you go and what you want to catch, Kab can provide world-class fishing for walleyes and small-

mouth bass, and the crappie fishing is pretty darn good also. Add in absolutely jumbo perch and northern

pike and you've got an outstanding experience. Kab has a great selection of resorts on part of the lake, so you can find whatever you're looking for in lodging. And then on much of the lake, there is absolutely no development, so there's lots of lodging for the wildlife that abounds in the area. Go to www.visitkab.com or call 844-525-3522 to start your trip.

We're fortunate to have so many wonderful fishing destinations in the Midwest. Lots of fish to catch and lots of other things to do. I am certain you'll be happy at any of the destinations just mentioned.

To see new and old episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, new and archived articles, and fishing video tips, go to fishingthemidwest.com

Kabetogama Lake in Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota



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