



Blue Water Sportfishing Association Newsletter



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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - TUESDAY,
MARCH 2, 7:00 AT MCMORRAN**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 10, 7:30 AT MCMORRAN**

BIG FISH WINNERS

At the February general membership meeting awards for the 2003 Big Fish Contest were awarded.

Rich Cooley caught the largest fish ever entered (in our records) in the BWSA big fish contest. Rich caught a 36.55 lb Lake Trout fishing Lake Superior on July 19th. Rich broke a 23 year old record held by Bob Bingle. In the 1980 big fish contest, Bob entered a 34 lb Chinook Salmon. Bob's King is still the largest Chinook ever entered. Cooley's Lake Trout was also the largest laker entered into the Michigan DNR's Master Angler program for 2003. Rich caught the trout while trolling Lake Superior out of Marquette County. The fish was taken on a Silver Streak.

Jim Frazier caught the largest Chinook entered. Jim's King weighed 28 lbs 8 oz. The amazing thing about Jim's fish is that he did not get it to a scale for over 24 hours. Who knows how much weight it lost, but this fish would have been very close to 30 lbs. Jim caught his King pre-fishing the Friday (Aug. 1st) before the club's tournament held at Ludington.

Congratulations to all of our clubs winners.

Rules and entry forms for the 2004 Big Fish Contest are found on the advertisement insert in this newsletter. They also can be viewed and printed from the club's website. The records for the Big Fish Contest are also kept on the website.



Big Fish Winners



Rich Cooley



Jim Frazier



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Tony Campbell and Charlie Starks from Gander Mountain were our guest speakers at the February meeting. They brought a lot of ice fishing equipment with them and put on an ice-fishing seminar. They had a large portable shanty and a motorized auger on display, stuff that any ice fisherman would want with the last two bitter winters we have had. At the end of their seminar, they gave everyone that attended the meeting a Gander Mountain baseball cap. The BWSA would like to thank Tony and Charlie for coming down and being our guest speakers.



BWSA WEBSITE

The BWSA website is being updated 2-3 times a month. Check out the What's New page to see what is being updated.

News and updates on all of the clubs tournaments have been posted. This includes the Classic, Salmon Stakes, and smaller Club Tournaments. More news and maps will be posted shortly.

We rearranged the photo gallery on the website by year. If you have any photos you would like posted of your 2003 catches, just email them to mrymar@hotmail.com and they will get posted on the website.

FISHING HOTLINE

The club's fishing hotline is back up and running with current reports. The number for it is 810-987-FISH. Joel Anderson from Anderson's Pro Bait is keeping it up-to-date with current reports.

SALMON STAKES

We are still working hard on this tournament, and it will be held April 24th.

Here is what we know. The entry will most likely be the same as years prior, which was \$10 an angler. The rules will mostly likely be the same as years prior too with both Lake Huron and the St. Clair River open for fishing. The funds raised by the tournament will go to a local charity in our area.

We still have quite a few things up in the air. The tournament's charity and sponsor are TBA. This unfortunately makes our weigh-in location also TBA as well. Now with this said, we have had a few meetings with different sponsors and our goal is to work with them to select a charity in the local area. The tournament's prize structure is still TBA too, and we are working hard to keep what we had last year (club and captain prizes).

An announcement on this info will be made soon. Your best source for the latest info is going to be 3 places: our March and April general membership meetings, the monthly newsletter, and our website. So please stay tuned for more info, as we work hard to keep the Salmon Stakes to the level that it was last year.

FISHING FOREVER

The 5th annual Fishing Forever Banquet & Dinner will be held on March 25. This event will be again at the roomy Crystal Gardens, 1200 Gratiot Ave. in Marysville. The doors will open at 5:30pm, and steak dinner will be served at 6:45pm.

The funds raised by this banquet allow sport fishermen and our club to have a voice in the treaty negotiations between the state and tribal fishing rights. Make sure your voice is heard and attend this event.



IGFA REJECTS RECORD LARGEMOUTH

A 22 lb largemouth bass caught this past August has been rejected by the IGFA as a new world record, ending the challenge to a record still held for 71 years by George Perry.

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) has been the keeper of records for the world's game fish since 1939. The non-profit association, based in Dania Beach, Florida, takes this responsibility very seriously. When it received a record application for a 22-1/2 lb largemouth bass, the IGFA Record Confirmation Committee examined every aspect of the catch in detail.

Mrs. Leaha Trew was fishing in Spring Lake in California with her son last August 24th when she caught the huge bass. It stood to beat the existing all-tackle record largemouth of 22-1/4 lb caught by George Perry in Georgia 71 years ago. Perry's bass record may be the single most recognized record in freshwater gamefishing.

Unfortunately, Trew's catch was not documented to IGFA's satisfaction, and therefore could not be accepted as a record. Rob Kramer, president of IGFA said, "We don't enjoy having to reject world record claims, but in this case there were too many unverifiable factors, so we had no other choice."

IGFA requires considerable and accurate documentation for all record submissions, which is just one example of the extreme care with which IGFA maintains world records.

Great Lakes Sportfishing Council

IMPORTANT BOATING DATES

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| March 1 | 2004 Fishing Licenses Go on Sale |
| March 3-7 | Ford Field Boat & Fishing Show |
| March 11-14 | Lansing Boat & Fishing Show |
| March 18-21 | Novi Boat Show |
| March 25 | Fishing Forever Banquet |
| April 1 | 2003 Fishing Licenses Expire |
| April 24 | Salmon Stakes |
| May 14-16 | Blue Water Spring Salmon Classic |
| June 4-6 | Sarnia Bay Marina Tournament |

MSU GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE MARCH 11, 2004

"The Great Lakes: Assessing Ecosystem Health through Partnerships"

Kellogg Center, Michigan State University

Sponsored by Michigan State University and the MI DEQ Office of the Great Lakes Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at Michigan State University, the conference "The Great Lakes: Assessing Ecosystem Health through Partnerships" will be held at the school's Kellogg Center.

In its 14th year, this annual Great Lakes conference will highlight the current research and activities of agencies, universities, and organizations working on various Great Lakes issues. Information will be presented on mercury and PCB contamination, invasive species, Great Lakes restoration, and fisheries.

This conference should be of interest to a wide diversity of groups including researchers, government agency personnel, educators, environmental groups and others who want to hear about current issues in the Great Lakes and problems being addressed. For more info or to register: www.iwr.msu.edu/events/ANRWeek/

Great Lakes Sportfishing Council

LITTLE RIVER BAND SPEARING RIVER SALMON

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians licensed band members to spear salmon on two tributaries of the Manistee River in the fall of 2003. Archie Martell, a Great Lakes fisheries biologist with the band's conservation department, revealed the activity took place while speaking at the Michigan Sea Grant meeting on Saturday, January 24 at the Ramada Inn in Ludington.

Great Lakes Sportfishing Council

Doghouse is For Sale

26' 1987 Starcraft Islander Hardtop, V6 4.3 Mercruiser, 15HP Mercury kicker motor (long shaft) low hours, 4 - Big Jon Electric Downriggers, Bottomline Tournament HR, Planer boards and reels, and Dual Axle Roller Bed Trailer. Ready to fish! Asking \$16,000. Contact Bill at 810-650-9191.



**P.O. Box 611337
Port Huron, Michigan
48061-1337**

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2004 Tournament Dates

| | |
|----------------|--|
| APRIL 17 | PORT HURON |
| APRIL 24 | SALMON STAKES |
| MAY 8 | PORT SANILAC |
| MAY 14, 15, 16 | BLUE WATER CLASSIC |
| MAY 22, 23 | PORT SANILAC |
| JUNE 13 | HARBOR BEACH |
| JUNE 27 | PORT AUSTIN |
| JULY 10 | PORT SANILAC (TWILIGHT) |
| JULY 17 & 18 | HARBOR BEACH |
| JULY 31, AUG 1 | ROCKPORT (no staging, set lines at 5:30) |
| AUGUST 21, 22 | LUDINGTON |

REGISTER VIA VHF RADIO CHANNEL 69 BEFORE 5:30 AM
CHANNEL 68 AFTER 5:30 AM

ALL TOURNAMENTS START AT 5:30 AM.

Gayle's Special Sauce

This sauce is delicious on anything...fish, steaks, chicken, pork, hamburger, roasts, deer, etc.

- 1 cup bottled Italian dressing (your favorite)
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/4 red wine
- 4 tsp. garlic powder
- 4 tsp. grated parmesan cheese (don't omit this)
- 2 tsp. paprika

Mix all ingredients in a glass jar and shake well. Let sit several hours before using, shaking occasionally. Keeps indefinitely in the refrigerator.

*Recipe Compliments of Gayle Gaw
Dea Lynn Charters*

HELP WANTED!!!

As most of you know, the weigh in for the Classic on Saturday and Sunday is at the Acheson Seaway Terminal. This promises to be a great family event, complete with food vendors, beer tent, entertainment and prizes. Acheson Ventures requires Certified Bar Tenders for this event. Therefore, we are using our own well loved Laurie Currier for both days and one of her associates. What we need from the membership and even their families are volunteers for both days to check IDs at the door and to sell beer tickets. We have decided that two hour time blocks would be the easiest way to do this. If you can spare two hours on either day, please call Dave or Sandy Weed at Acorn Press at 984-3813 and we will sign you up. We have also printed special posters this year for the beer tent in addition to our regular poster. If you can distribute a few of these, please call or stop by Acorn at 1419 Water Street to pick them up. Please help!!! Thank you.