



Blue Water Sportfishing Association Newsletter



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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - TUESDAY,
APRIL 5 , 7:00 AT MCMORRAN**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING- WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 13, 7:30 AT MCMORRAN**

MARCH/APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

BWSA thanks Larry Meier and Andy Donato for speaking to our club at the March meeting. Larry gave a great speech about what sportfishermen and the BWSA can do about the cormorants in the Great Lakes. Please see page 4 of the newsletter for a sample letter that Larry urges all of us to write to our U.S. Senators. Andy showed one of his dive videos where he dives on the Minnedosa, a shipwreck off Harbor Beach that rests in 220 FOW. Thank you both for coming to speak to us.

In April, the DNR will be putting on a presentation on the Chinook Salmon Status on Lake Huron. This one is a must see.

SPRING BOAT AND FISHING SHOW

BWSA would like to thank the following members for working the booth in Birch Run:

Jim Frazier

Keith Hieber

Bill Jackson

Brian Meredith

Charlie Packard

Debbie Packard

Dave Rymar

Mike Rymar



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 3-year terms of 15 Board Members are up in June. This means there will be 15 open spots that need to be filled. If you wish to become a Board Member, you need to contact the Nomination Committee that is chaired by Mike Rymar. Board members that seek re-election should contact Mike Rymar as well.

FISHING HOTLINE

The club's fishing hotline is available 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.



WILD GAME DINNER

We had a great turn out at our 1st annual Wild Game dinner February 8th.

We'd like to thank the following people that made dishes:

Paul Zimmer for Seafood Chowder & Perch Rollups
 Bob Lane for Buffalo Chili
 Frank Rotondi for Fish Chowder
 Rob Helzer, Dan Fenner, & Brian Meridith for Goose Kabobs
 Bob Roskey for shredded BBQ Buffalo
 Dave & Lloyd Rymar for Gator Eggs
 Randy Bugaiski for smoked Venison Hind
 Fred Witter for Escalloped Potatoes
 Judy Ogden for Venison Casserole
 Gerard Hart for Wild Turkey & smoked Salmon Spread
 Jim Frazer for Piglet's Pattie Cakes
 Dan Owens for smoked Elk & smoked Pheasant
 Brian Seely & Jim O'Connor for Venison Kabobs
 Rankin Meats for the Meat & Cheese Platter w/various game meats

Of course, we'd like to thank all the people who brought desserts and other dishes to make our dinner a complete success. If we forgot to mention any of the dishes, we're sorry; we must've lost your green card. We promise to do better next year.

Here's a recipe we collected from Gerard Hart for Smoked Salmon Spread:

1 lb smoked salmon
 16 oz cream cheese
 1 c mayonnaise
 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
 1 tbsp lemon juice
 1 tbsp chives (finely chopped)

Remove skin and finely shred the smoked salmon. Add softened cream cheese in small chunks. Process all ingredients in a food processor. Pepper to taste. Enjoy on crackers, bagels, or bread.

Maybe next year everyone can bring us a recipe with their dishes and we can share a couple a month.

TRIBAL FISHERMAN FINED, LICENSE SUSPENDED

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians announced Tommy Battice was found to be in violation of tribal regulations that set a closure on the commercial whitefish season from noon Nov. 6-Nov. 30, 2004. Michigan DNR officers seized 3,857 lbs of whitefish from Battice's boat after noon on Nov. 6.

The citation issued by the MDNR conservation officers was referred to the NRC for hearing. Battice, who defended his case in front of the NRC on January 12, was fined \$250, received a 30-day suspension of his trap net fishing permit and forfeiture of the proceeds from the catch — a total of \$1,141.90.

from Great Lakes Sportfishing Council

The above is what the tribal courts decided were a suitable punishment for the tribal angler. Keep this in mind though. First, the tribe gave the angler the very minimum fine. The actual penalty is that the court can fine the tribal angler no less than \$250. So, they gave him the very minimum they could. Second, if I were caught with 3,875 lbs of fish on my boat over my limit, the fine would be \$10 for every pound I have been told. That would be \$38,750. Third, I have tried to find out when the tribal angler has been suspended. None of my requests have been answered. Maybe they suspended him for 30 days in January, when no fishing was going to occur anyway. Lastly, the \$1,141.90 that the angler had to forfeit is actually forfeited to the tribe itself.

Mike Rymar

SALMON STAKES

2005 St. Clair Salmon Stakes is up and running. The tournament will be on April 30th. The event will again be hosted by the Voyageur Restaurant. Proceeds from the event are being used to construct a fish cleaning station in the city of St. Clair.

Tickets are on sale at the **April general membership meeting**, Anderson's Pro Bait, Voyageur Restaurant, Lumberjack in Algonac, Angler Rod in St. Clair. Also, Rob Helzer and Paul Zimmer will be selling tickets. There are some really great raffle prizes. First prize is a 2-person Alaska getaway; the value of this is approximately \$10,000. In all, there are 5 great raffle prizes to be won.

Last year, there were 6 categories that anglers could win. This year, we have increased this to 7. They are Super Skipper, King, Coho, Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Steelhead, and the newly added Walleye.



ROCKPORT 2004

In September, we reported that we lost the images of the Rockport Tournament. Well, we found them. Here are the top 3 boats and Big Fish Winner.

- In The Red – Jeff Parker - 107.3 lbs
- Buster - Dennis Ouellette - 105.9 lbs
- Willisa Ann - Bill Ogden - 105.6 lbs
- Willisa Ann - Bill Ogden - 11.6 lbs Chinook



First Place Winners



Third Place Winners



Second Place Winners



Big Fish Winner

CLUB TOURNAMENTS

2005 Club Tournament schedule starts this month. The first event will be April 23rd out of Port Huron.

There were only two slight changes to the rules. The first was to clarify that there can be a tie for Captain of the Year standing. The second was to change how we calculate a boat's total weight in 2-day events. The new format is that you will weigh your top five fish. Then your partner will weigh their top five fish. Then, out of the 10 fish weighed, only the top five fish of those 10 fish will be added to both teams' score.





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Port Huron, Michigan
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Sample Letter to US. Senators

This is a sample letter; you need to fill in parts in parenthesis.

(Date)

(Your Congressmen's Name)
(Address)
Washington D.C. 20515

To the Honorable (Congressmen's Name Again)

As a member of the Blue Water Sportfishing Association, with a membership of 480 families, do hereby support the effort of Representative Dave Camp Michigan's 4th, and Representative Bart Stupak Michigan's 1st, for their efforts in the control of Cormorants in the Cedarville and Hessle areas. We need to expand the control of this bird throughout the Great Lakes area.

As you may be aware these migratory birds are devastating the Great Lakes Forage Base and severely crippling our salmon, perch, and walleye fisheries as well as other Great Lakes sport fish.

(Add a personal note from your own experience with the Cormorant)

I hope you show your support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)
(Your Address)
(Your City, State, Zip)

Addresses of your congressmen to send this to:

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2202

The Honorable Debbie A. Stabenow
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2203

The Honorable Candice Miller
United States House of Representatives
228 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2210

Or <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> if you do not live in St. Clair County.

2005 BOATING DATES

| | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| April 1 | 2004 Fishing License Expires |
| April 30 | Salmon Stakes |
| May 7-8 | Sarnia Bay Tournament of Champions |
| May 14 | MSSC Port Sanilac |
| May 20-22 | Blue Water Classic |
| June 3-5 | Grand Haven Offshore |
| June 10-12 | GLPAA - Port Austin |
| June 11-12 | Michigan Free Fishing Weekend |