



Michiana Walleye Association

December 2010/January 2011

President's Corner

Les Bontrager

I'm sitting here just reminiscing over the last year. We started out the year with an ice fishing derby on Lake Maxinkuckee in conjunction with the Indiana Walleye Association on February 6. Then on February 14 we had our annual Valentine's brunch for the ladies, with very good participation. On February 20 & 21 we participated in the Steelheaders show.

On March 6, 7 and 8, we parked cars and manned a booth to promote our Outdoor Show at the Lunkers Extravaganza. Our Sportsman's Outdoor Show was held on March 27 & 28, with around 600 people in attendance. We received a lot of good comments on this show. On April 3 we held our kids Easter egg hunt with good participation, and the kids all had a good time. On April 10, a number of club members traveled to the Detroit River for a fun outing and big fish tournament. Everyone had a great time. On April 17 we had our first Chicken BBQ fundraiser for the year.

On April 25 we held a Cabela's Qualifier Tournament on the St. Joe River at Midway Bait and Tackle. On a very rainy May 8 we held our annual garage sale. It went quite well considering the weather. On May 15 we had our MWA Club tournament on Lake of the Woods in Bremen. On Saturday and Sunday the 5th and 6th of June, we were able to

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** President's Corner
- 1** Fall Walleye Fishing
- 2** Calendar of Events
- 3** Contact Information
- 4-6** MWA 2010 Tournaments Review
- 7** 2011 Sportsman's Outdoor Show

Tip of the Day

FALL WALLEYE FISHING

If you ever wonder what happens to Walleye in the fall of the year, you should try fishing in deeper water - anywhere from 20 to 35 feet.

Either troll with some kind of crank bait suspended or near the bottom, or try Hopkins spoons or heavier jigs with or without bait.

Sometimes just a plain hook and a sinker works well with larger minnows (fatheads). I know that these methods work well at Lake Maxinkuckee in Culver and Bremen's Lake of the Woods right up until ice up.

Good Luck
Mike Rhoades

NEWS FLASH

Please take a minute and fill out the application on page 3 and send it or bring it to the club, along with your dues, before April 1, 2011. Memberships run from April 1 - April 1.

All members will receive the February/March newsletter in the mail. After that issue, all who can receive their newsletter by email are encouraged to do so. This saves the club printing and postage costs.

So please fill out the application with your *current email address* and make note of current address, phone, and any other changes that you might need to update. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 11 - WAOR SPORTS SHOW

RV HALL OF FAME, ELKHART

10:00AM - 4:00PM

DECEMBER 11 - MWA CHRISTMAS PARTY

MWA CLUBHOUSE

6:30PM

All members, families and guests are welcome. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. The club will provide the meats.

Bring a new, unwrapped gift to help us help needy children through the Toys for Tots drive.

DECEMBER 20 - BOARD MEETING

MWA CLUBHOUSE

6:30PM

2011

JANUARY 8 - MONTHLY MEETING

MWA CLUBHOUSE

6:30PM

Election of Board members. Speaker: Duane Turnock, whose hobby is hand carving fish decoys.

JANUARY 17 - BOARD MEETING

MWA CLUBHOUSE

6:30PM

FEBRUARY 12 - MONTHLY MEETING

MWA CLUBHOUSE

6:30PM

FEBRUARY 13 - LADIES' VALENTINE BRUNCH

MWA CLUBHOUSE

11:00AM

All members, families and guests are welcome.

FEBRUARY 21 - BOARD MEETING

MWA CLUBHOUSE

6:30PM

MARCH 4, 5 AND 6 - LUNKERS EXTRAVAGANZA

Visit our MWA booth. We will again park cars all weekend. *Volunteers are needed.* This is one of our major fund raisers every year, so please come out, volunteer, and support the club.

send 7 teams to Lake Winnebago in Wisconsin for the Cabela's National tournament. Congratulations to all who went and to our top team of Randy Gaines and Mike Rhoades, who finished in 11th place. On June 12 we had our second Chicken BBQ fundraiser of the year. June 24 was our annual Kid's Fishing Derby at our club pond. We had over 50 kids sign up for this function, but because of inclement weather, only around 35 very avid young fishermen showed up; the rain didn't seem to deter them. On June 27 we had another Cabela's qualifier tournament. July 18 was our second Club tournament on Winona Lake in Warsaw. July 19 we hosted a Girl Scouts and their Dad's fishing derby at the club pond.

Once again we had our "Fishing Challenge" with the PNA club on the St. Joe River the 5th of August, with the weigh in at our club. I'm sorry to say that they edged us out this year by a very small margin. Congratulations to all the PNA guys. Our last Cabela's Qualifier Tournament was on August 15 on Winona Lake in Warsaw. On September 11 we had our last Club Tournament on Sylvan Lake in Rome City. October 23 was our annual Halloween party with games, food and hayrides, with around 100 kids and adults present. November 20 was our annual banquet with our tournament awards. This is always a fun time. If you have never attended, make plans to do so next year.

On December 11 we will have a booth at the WAOR Outdoor Show at the RV Hall of Fame in Elkhart. Come see us there. This will be followed at 6:30 by our annual Christmas party - good food, good friends, and an appearance by Santa. All members and guests are invited; bring a dish and an unwrapped new toy for our Toys for Tots drive.

If we add the weekly work nights on Tuesdays, the meeting nights on the second Saturday of every month plus the monthly board meetings, you can see it's been a very busy year. This work is all done by member volunteers; we would love to see more of our members get more involved.

The functions where we work with and entertain our future generations are very rewarding. I hope that these young people will get to enjoy the outdoors and the sport of fishing the way we do.

I would like to take this time to thank all the members and volunteers who have helped this past year to make it possible to keep our doors open at a time when many other clubs are declining or closing. For me it was a very challenging year, but I'm still happy with the results.

Les

Michiana Walleye Association

OFFICERS

President

Les Bontrager (574) 862-2517

Vice President

Don Shelton (574) 532-3271

Treasurer

Doug Burkhead (574) 524-0824

Secretary

Barry Ukele (574) 259-6212

Sergeant At Arms

Mike Rhoades (574) 273-0587

Building Superintendent

Dave Hayes (574) 276-0254

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rob Burns (574) 360-5083

Barry Ukele (574) 259-6212

Doug Burkhead (574) 524-0824

Don Shelton (574) 532-3271

Rick Nichols (574) 282-1916

Shawn Kintigh (574) 215-4111

Mike Rhoades (574) 273-0587

Scott Pealer (574) 875-1490

Dave Hayes (574) 276-0254

WANTED: ALUMINUM

The club is looking for aluminum. If you have any unwanted aluminum that you would like to donate to the club, please drop it off at the club grounds after 5pm on any Tuesday. Proceeds from the sale of your aluminum are used to help support our walleye stocking efforts, and we thank you.

Membership Application

(Enclose payment and mail to MWA)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership Type:

Single \$ 25.00 or Family \$ 40.00 per year.

Michiana Walleye Association



13040 Day Rd.
Mishawaka, IN 46545
(574) 299-6839

Michiana Walleye Pledge

- To preserve and to protect our waterways and fish therein,
- To provide a future for generations yet to come,
- To educate those generations so that this tradition may be carried on.

2010 MWA TOURNAMENTS REVIEW

The Michiana Walleye Association and its tournament committee were proud to host their annual Awards banquet on Saturday November 20 at the club. It was a great evening, starting with happy half hour at 6:00pm with around 45 individuals attending who shared some laughs, a recap of the year's events and a hardy meal from Dana J's Fine Deli Meats of Goshen. Once everyone had a chance to enjoy their meal and get comfortable, we moved forward with the evening's events. We said thank you to all the volunteers to helped put events together and helped run them. We also thanked all the anglers who came out - regardless of the weather, to participate in events. Without the volunteers or the anglers, we wouldn't have an awards banquet and a lot of fun.

It was a great fishing season this year with some ups and downs in the weather and catch rates, but all-in-all, we had some great events and fun as a group. To give a brief summary of the year, we had 28 anglers participate in the Cabelas NTC Series, creating a total prize purse of \$1,260 dollars. These anglers caught a total of 52 Walleyes, with a combined weight of 106.70 lbs. and were successful in releasing 43 of those fish for others to enjoy another day. Likewise, in the MWA Club Series, we had 30 anglers participate in the series, creating a \$1,216 dollar prize purse. These anglers caught 30 walleyes with a combined weight of 54.41 lbs. and successfully released 29 of 30 fish for future enjoyment. Great job on your success in the catching and care of those fish in order to release them successfully. Our format of catch and release and the efforts you go to ensuring live fish says a lot about who you are, and who we are at the MWA, and is another area that sets us apart from other clubs.

Well, our first event of the year was a fun outing on the Detroit River in early April. It was a chance for a bunch of members to get together, get the boats wet, and blow the dust and cobwebs off the rods in search of some big fish. Several teams went up for a 3-day weekend and some just for the two days. It was my first experience on the river, and if you've never gone before, you should. It's a great experience with an amazing number of big fish in the river and a great chance of hooking up with a big fish. You know the odds are in your favor when you have two major fishing groups having multi-day events on the same weekend and out of the same launch you're going out of. If I remember correctly it was the MWC and the Michigan Walleye Association and I believe there were about 200 tournament boats there that weekend. Now our numbers weren't that large and I don't have the exact number of boats or fish, but I do recall many guys catching a good number of quality fish each day. We all chipped in a "big fish" pot, which I think it was \$10 a boat, with it all going to the angler with the heaviest fish. Kris Blouir got that fish, which was a beauty and in the neighborhood of 7-8lbs. Great job Kris.

Our first competitive event of the year was a Cabelas Series event held on Sunday April 25 on the St. Joe River. We launched from Osceola at Midway Bait & Tackle; we'd like to once again extend a big thank you to them for the use of their facilities. We had 12 boats fish from 7am until 3pm in what ended up being a fairly wet & chilly day. In the end, there were 6 boats catching and successfully releasing 8 fish, with a combined weight of 18.13 lbs. The event's prize purse of \$420 was dispersed to the top 3 teams with the heaviest baskets. Finishing:

3rd with a total of 2 fish weighing 3.86 lbs. and worth \$42 per angler: Dave & Adam Hayes

2nd with a total of 2 fish weighing 4.61 lbs. and worth \$63 per angler: Randy Gaines & Mike Rhoades

1st place with just 1 fish, the "big fish", weighing 5.79 lbs. and worth \$105 per angler: Jim Bartosch & Doug Burkhead

Almost a month later our next stop was a Club event, on Saturday May 15 at Lake of the Woods outside of Bremen. It was a nice day with 12 boats taking off at 7am for their super secret spots on the lake. Even though it was a challenging bite, we had 8 teams at 3pm weigh and successfully release a total of 21 fish, with an overall weight of 32.86 lbs. We had a total prize purse of \$384 and a team "big fish" pot of \$120 to award them. Now a unique feature with the club series events is that all teams weighing fish receive a payout based on the total ounces of the fish they caught vs. the rest of the field. Coming in:

8th place with 1 fish weighing .86 lbs. and worth \$5.02 per angler: Jim Bartosch & Doug Burkhead

7th place with 1 fish weighing .96 lbs. and worth \$5.61 per angler: Barry Ukele & Don Shelton

6th place with 1 fish weighing 1.09 lbs. and worth \$6.37 per angler: Shawn Kintigh & Ron McCoy

5th place with 1 fish weighing 2.15 lbs. and worth \$12.56 per angler: Charlie Vancamp & Chris Lord

4th place with 2 fish weighing 3.65 lbs. and worth \$21.32 per angler: Rob & Nick Burns

3rd place with 5 fish weighing 7.24 lbs. and worth \$42.30 per angler: Dave & Adam Hayes

2nd place with 5 fish weighing 7.26 lbs. and worth \$42.42 per angler: Rick & Jeremy Nichols

1st place with 5 fish weighing 9.65lbs. and worth \$56.39 per angler: Mike & Chris Rhoades

Big fish of the day weighed 2.61lbs and was worth \$60 each to Mike & Chris Rhoades

We made our way to Lake Maxinkuckee in Culver on Sunday June 27 for our 2nd Cabelas event. Competing in the event were 12 boats that started fishing at 7am with a rain delay for a thunderstorm in the middle of the event, but we still finished at 3pm. All

in all there were 7 boats finding 15 fish with a combined weight of 24.27 lbs. Unfortunately between the high temperatures, the depths at which the fish came, and the interrupting storms, we were only able to successfully return 8 of those fish. The event's prize purse was once again \$420 and dispersed to the top 3 fish weighing teams. Finishing:

3rd with 4 fish weighing 5.11 lbs. after penalties and worth \$42 per angler: Randy Gaines & Mike Rhoades

2nd with 3 fish weighing 5.20 lbs. after penalties and worth \$63 per angler: Dave & Adam Hayes

1st with 3 fish weighing 5.90 lbs. after penalties and worth \$105 per angler: Dwight Jones & Mike Beachamp

Big fish of the day @ 3.19lbs. - Dwight Jones & Mike Beachamp

When we got to our halfway mark in the awards ceremony, we took a second to recognize a few of our members. It wasn't a club event but it's the reason for our Cabela's series and it was the Cabela's NTC tournament held June 5 & 6 on Lake Winnebago in Osh Kosh Wisconsin. Our club was very fortunate to have the opportunity to send 7 teams this year to compete with a total field size of 362 teams in the dual format tournament. These teams spent different amounts of time up in WI searching the lake for walleyes and trying countless different techniques. Each team ended with different success rates and stories of their adventure but no doubt regardless of their finish they all had a great experience meeting new people, fishing new waters, and taking part in what is now recognized by The Guinness Book of World Records as "the largest fishing tournament ever". We recognized these teams & said thank you for the way they represented themselves and the Michiana Walleye Association in such a large, nationally-broadcast event.

Kris & Meredith Blouir Shawn & Angie Kintigh Ed & Steven Szymczak Michael Zachary & Tim Schrock
Randy Gaines & Mike Rhoades Dwight Jones & Mike Beauchamp Rob Burns & Don Shelton

One of these teams did extremely well, coming in 1st after day 1 by 2.65 lbs. and finishing 11th after day 2. On behalf of the club and the tournament committee, we said congratulations and tough break at the same time to Randy & Mike. Mother Nature sure can throw a wrench in things at times but that's the way to represent yourselves, the club, and the state of Indiana, showing other anglers there's more than corn in Indiana. Nice job fellows.

After a little rescheduling due to conflicts with the 4H Fair, 14 boats found their way to Winona Lake outside of Warsaw on Sunday July 18 for our second club series event. From 7-3, this field found the bite very challenging with only 3 boats bringing in a total of 6 fish, weighing 16.30 lbs. Now for as bad as it sounds, 2 of those fish were very nice fish and we successfully released all but the smallest fish to fight another day. We had a total prize purse of \$448 to disperse to these teams based on the weight of their fish. We also rewarded the big fish of the day with \$140. Placing:

3rd with a total of 2 fish weighing 1.83 lbs. and worth \$25.54 per angler: Ron McCoy & Shawn Kintigh

2nd with 2 fish weighing 5.71 lbs. (1 at 4.35 lbs) earning each angler \$79.69: Ed & Steven Szymczak

1st place worth \$118.77 each + \$70 each for big fish went to a team weighing 2 fish at 8.51 lbs. Their big fish of the day ended up being the **big fish of the year** at 7.05 lbs. Nice job & great fish! - Dwight Jones & Ron Hipsher

As most of you know, the MWA takes part in many different events throughout the year. One unique event that started just a few years ago is with another area club whose members share the same passion to fish: the PNA. This event has come to be known as the PNA Challenge and it involves a set number of boats from each club. There's typically a small luncheon afterwards during the weigh in and a nice plaque that gets hung at the winning club until the next year's event. Now I'm proud to say the MWA has been displaying that plaque for all to see, and heading into this year's event we were looking to even up the series with a repeat victory. The event location and weigh in celebration is the responsibility of the current champs to host and set up, so the MWA chose to target the St. Joe River out of Midway Bait & Tackle in Osceola. The format is simple: each club is in search of several species of fish such as Bluegills, Perch, Crappie, Walleye, Pike, Small- and Largemouth Bass and a side pot for Catfish. The top 3 fish in each category get a predetermined number of points and at the end of the day, the club with the most points wins the challenge. Well, after all the fish were weighed at our club grounds, members were anxious for the results. Unfortunately, the MWA fell just short of repeating our victory and then endured a barrage of Polish jokes, jabs, and torment. We were reminded that it will take 2 years to tie the series up now, and no matter what happens next year we will still be hearing about it. I think there are already several anglers in our club ready to take that plaque back next year!

Sunday August 15 at Warsaw's Winona Lake, we held the club's 3rd & final Cabelas event. The field was made up 12 boats bringing in a season-high 29 fish, weighing a total of 64.30 lbs., with 5 teams finding their limits. These fish were caught from 7am-3pm in various parts of the lake and its water column. We were successful in releasing all but 2 of those fish that day which

was terrific, because it was a hot one. The event's prize purse was again \$420 and dispersed to the top 3 weighing teams:
 3rd with 5 fish weighing a total of 10.81 lbs. and worth \$42 per angler: Randy Gaines & Mike Rhoades
 2nd with 5 fish weighing a total of 13.82 lbs. and worth \$63 per angler: Ed Szymczak & Dallas Dunn
 (They also had big fish of the day, 5.80 lbs.)
 1st by just .17 lbs with 5 fish weighing 13.99 lbs. and worth \$105 per angler: Michael Zachary & Tim Schrock

Now with the conclusion of the Cabelas series our final standings have been determined. There is no guarantee if or how many invitations the MWA will receive. What we do know is the Cabelas NTC will be in Little Bay De Noc in Escanaba MI in the middle of September, 2011. As always, we will extend the invitations we get starting with our top team on down. Here are our club's top 5 teams in the Cabelas series:

5th place	80 points	Doug Burkhead & Jim Bartosch
4th & 3rd place (tie)	82 points	Ed Szymczak & Dallas Dunn, Michael Zachary & Tim Schrock
2nd place	108 points	Dwight Jones & Mike Beauchamp
1st place	110 points	Mike Rhoades & Randy Gaines

Saturday, September 11, a date we all should remember on its' own, was the last stop of the year for the club series. It was a very chilly & wet day on Sylvan Lake. 11 boats made their way to the ramp at 7am and fished through all kinds of conditions until 3pm. The effort was there, but in the end we only weighed and successfully released 3 fish weighing a total of 5.5 lbs. We had a total prize purse of \$384 to disperse to the 3 teams for their successful efforts, based on the weight of each of their fish. We also had \$120 to hand out for the big fish of the day. Placing:

3rd with 1 fish weighing .73 lbs. and worth \$25.48 per angler: Charlie Vancamp & Jeff Guerra
 2nd with 1 fish weighing .80 lbs. and worth \$27.93 per angler: Mike & Chris Rhoades
 1st place wasn't even close. This team's 1 fish was the big fish of the day at 3.97 lbs., making it worth \$198.50 total
 Kris Blouir & Dean Plank - Great job guys!

Now for those of you who didn't know it, last year, the Angler of the Year came down to the difference of the weight of a dime - one thin dime. After two years of coming just that close, there was an angler with a mission. Many of us heard his 2 cents' worth at the beginning of the year on how this was going to be his year. I think he spent the other 8 cents of that dime telling me he was coming to get it. Now those of you who know this angler knows he can put some stink out there at times and you just never know what to think. Well apparently he and his partner, who happen to be a father and son team, meant business this year. Even though it came down to the last event, the point's series in the end wasn't anywhere close to what it had been the prior two years. I presented each angler with \$152 and 2 very nice plaques as our new **Anglers of the Year**. Congratulations. Great job, Mike & Chris Rhoades.

We had numerous fun awards distributed throughout the night, but you really had to be present to enjoy the humor, though I do believe some photos are on our website of the night's events. Obviously, with all the different types of awards we handed out, you can tell that we had a lot of fun with our outings and members while maintaining a great level of competition. We're really looking forward to next year's events and I'm pleased to tell you we have listened to your input all year long. I'm excited to tell you we are looking at a whole new format and way of doing things next year. Just to give you a preview of what's in store, there won't be a separate Cabelas Series and Club series; there will be just be one series known as the "Anglers Challenge". The Challenge will be a dual format concept with a new point structure and will consist of 5 events, all held on Saturdays from 7am-3pm. All teams will be competing for the same top three cash prizes at each event. At each event, all participants will earn points in the Angler of the Year program, while having an option to register in the Cabela's NTC program and earn additional points. In addition, because of the new structure, you don't always have to fish with the same angler at every event. We plan to have the documentation available online and at the club beginning in January. We will follow that up with a voluntary meeting for participants before the first event to discuss all rules, changes, and answer any questions. Right now, we're finalizing details such as dates and locations, as well as documenting the detailed set of rules. Our goal is simple: we want to provide a fun, yet competitive events that everyone can enjoy, while increasing our member participation, whether they're teams returning from one series or another, new members, or long time members who haven't participated in awhile. So with that being said we invite & encourage you to come join us and learn some new techniques, make some new friends, or just have fun with old ones, as we fish different waters, testing our skills in search of the always elusive Walleye. I again on behalf of the tournament committee and the club want to say "thank you" to all the teams that participated in events, our volunteers and to say "congratulations" to the teams that were successful.

Shawn Kintigh



2011



SPORTSMAN'S OUTDOORS



SHOW



FREE ADMISSION

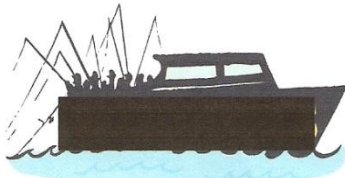
FREE PARKING

**FISHING
SEMINARS**

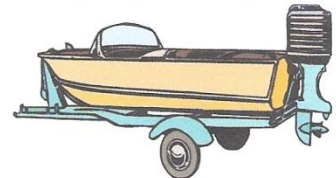
SATURDAY

**HUNTING
SEMINARS**

MARCH 26th



9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



**FISHING
CHARTERS**

SUNDAY

**BOAT
DEALERS**

MARCH 27th



**ATV
DEALERS**

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM



**FISHING
CAMPS**

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

HOSTED BY:

**MICHIANA WALLEYE ASSOCIATION
13040 DAY ROAD MISHAWAKA, IN.**

(574) 299-6839 lesbont38@aol.com