

# Michiana Walleye Association

October/November 2010

## President's Corner

*Les Bontrager*

We are in the month of October and the fishing reports for this summer have been less than great. It seems that with the ever-changing weather patterns and the very dry weather the last few months, the fishing has been somewhat subpar. However, in the last week we have been getting some good reports from Lake Erie with some limits of big fish. We are hoping that this will also be the story we get from local waters shortly.

As we are approaching our slow period of the year, with our calendar not as full for the next few months, we are hoping to see more of you for our monthly meetings on the second Saturday of the month. Also you are welcome to drop by any Tuesday evening from 4:00 to 7:00. Our annual banquet is on the 20th of November. This is always a fun time with the prizes for the tournaments to be handed out at that time.

Everyone is invited whether you fished or not. Be sure to mark your calendar for the 11th of December, which is our annual Christmas Party. The Annual Sportsman's Outdoor show will be on March 26th & 27th, with more vendors, bigger and better than ever.

## Winter Walleyes on the St. Joe

*Written by the Herald Palladium*

Dead of winter is the perfect time for catching massive walleyes. If the idea of crawling out of bed sometime around 3 am on a below-freezing, snowy winter day to go fishing seems less than appealing, Bob Warner thinks it makes sense. Warner, who operates Lucky Duck Charters out of Shamrock Park in Berrien Springs, likes to be on the St Joseph River at 4 am, where he can catch walleyes that have been feeding in shallow water before they move deep. "You get out there before the boat traffic spooks them," he said "you'll get the bigger walleyes before daylight".

How big? Warner's best is 14-1/4 pounds, but larger fish are out there and he says winter is the prime time for lunkers.

His assertion is backed up by data from the state's Master Angler program, Michael Frisco of Coloma took a 15.47 pound walleye from the St. Joe on March 14, 2007 and Lonnie Halsea of South Bend caught a 14.12 pound 'eye from the river on Feb. 21, 2006. Both fish ranked among the top walleyes caught in the state during the last three years.

Warner is not afraid of nasty weather, saying walleyes often bite best during some of the worst cold spells. He thinks the baitfish become sluggish, making them easy picking for walleye. "I tend to fish the shallow edges where you have a deep hole," Warner said. "I assume they're coming out of the shallows after feeding at night. I'm not afraid to be sitting out there at 10 am in deep water, and pitch a jig into 4 feet of water."

He tips his jigs with plastic tails or minnows, but also uses blade baits such as the Silver Buddy or Heddon Sonar, or Lindy rigs with 3/8 or 1/2 ounce slip sinkers

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## NEWS FLASH

To all old and new members: We are updating our member information and we need your help. Please take a minute and fill out the application on page 3 and send it along with your dues for the April 1, 2011 due date. For those who may not remember, our memberships run from April 1st to April 1st. All members will receive a hard copy newsletter for the Feb/March issue. After this issue all who can receive their newsletter by email are encouraged to do so. This saves the club the printing and postage costs. So please fill out the application with your current email address and take 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

### NOVEMBER 13 OPEN MEETING

MWA CLUBHOUSE

6:30PM

All members, families and guests are welcome.

### NOVEMBER 15 BOARD MEETING

MWA CLUBHOUSE

6:30PM

### NOVEMBER 20 MWA ANNUAL BANQUET

MWA CLUBHOUSE

MEET AND GREET AT 6:00PM; DINNER AT 6:30

\$15 per person, paid by Tuesday, November 16

### DECEMBER 11 - MWA CHRISTMAS PARTY

MWA CLUBHOUSE

6:30PM

All members, families and guests are welcome.

### DECEMBER 20 - BOARD MEETING

MWA CLUBHOUSE

6:30PM

baited with minnows. You've got to feel the bottom to be successful, Warner said. He uses a stinger hook to increase hookups.

Warner who also fishes for steelhead, is hoping for an uptick in the walleye fishery. Success on any given day, he said, is often tied to the skill of the anglers he has fishing. We've had days when we've come in with 10 or 12 walleyes and the next day you can come in with one, he said.

Warner has fished the river since 1973. To fish with him, call (517) 617-1492.

## Ice Fishing on the First Ice

Mike Rhoades

When the water gets hard it's usually the best time to fish, starting with the channels and small lakes and then out on the main body of water. I like at least 2 1/2" to 3" of ice before I'll go out. I've been on less but it's a little scary.

Some people use what's known as a spud bar. A spud bar is some type of heavy metal bar with a chisel type end. Every few steps they whack on the ice to see how easy it punches through and if it goes through too easily, it's not safe.

First ice is generally very slippery. I use cleats on my boots for better footing. I like to go out with someone who's bigger than I am, and let them go first. If they don't break through, I usually feel safe.

I get to where I'm going to fish and drill a dozen holes with my auger and check the depth with the bottom finder and start fishing. I like to hole hop until I find fish or not. If not, I'll drill another dozen holes in a different area and start the process all over. Tight lines to all.



# 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.



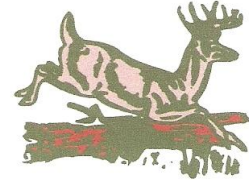
# 2011



## SPORTSMAN'S OUTDOORS



### SHOW



FREE ADMISSION

FREE PARKING

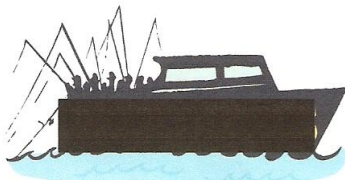
**FISHING  
SEMINARS**

**SATURDAY**

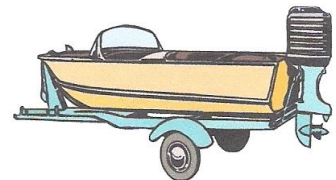
**HUNTING  
SEMINARS**

**MARCH 26th**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**



**FISHING  
CHARTERS**



**BOAT  
DEALERS**

**SUNDAY**

**MARCH 27th**

**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**ATV  
DEALERS**



**FISHING  
CAMPS**

## FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

**HOSTED BY:**

**MICHIANA WALLEYE ASSOCIATION**

**13040 DAY ROAD ..... MISHAWAKA, IN.**

**(574) 299-6839    [lesbont38@aol.com](mailto:lesbont38@aol.com)**