

# Fish Tales Newsletter

## Sheboygan Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen

MAY, 2014

P.O. Box 982  
SHEBOYGAN, WI 53082  
WWW.SHEBOYGANFISHINGCLUB.COM



### Ride a Charter Boat Day - May 20, 2014

#### Upcoming Club Events for 2014:

- *Boat Rides* 5/20/14
- *Free Fishing Weekend* 6/7/14 - 6/8/14
- *Salmon Cup Tourney* 6/7/14 - 6/8/14
- *Meeting* 6/17/14
- *Jr Cobo Derby* 6/28/14
- *Inter-Club Contest* 7/13/14
- *Ponder Puff Derby* 7/16/14

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The Sheboygan Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen's club will again be sponsoring our 10th annual "Ride a Charter Boat Day". This year's event is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2014 and will take the place of our monthly general membership meeting. Charter captain club members will again be donating the use of their boats and time to provide free boat rides to the general public beginning at 6:00 pm. This year we will not be providing free boat rides to the area's school

children fishing club earlier that day. The kids fishing club is no longer a school activity. This is a great opportunity to visit with area guides and club members, review how the boats are rigged for fishing, inspect tackle and equipment and ask all your fishing related questions. The Sheboygan Coast Guard and area commercial fishermen have also been invited to attend this event. Club members will be grilling a variety of their special salmon recipes for you to try, as well as,

smoked fish from the Wharf. Every year this event seems to draw more and more people to our boardwalk. At last years event our captains gave over 600 persons free boat rides up and down the Sheboygan River. Watch a short video of our past boat rides at our clubs website. Volunteers will again be needed to help with boarding and organization. Please volunteer this year by contacting Jim Schlegel at 920-918-2628.



## Spring Fishing 2014

Much like the start of the 2013 fishing season, we are again off to a late start this year. An unusually cold winter coupled with weather that is reluctant to warm up has left many boats high and dry thus far. Consequently, I have yet to get my boat out on the water but hope to before Mother's Day.

The odd fishing patterns we experienced last year may very well repeat themselves again this year due to the extensive freeze over of Lake Michigan this past winter, a delayed spring and cool water. In response to these patterns, a number of boats fished much deeper water (over 300 feet) than usual last year and had some good results. I am curious to see how this season will unfold.

There have been reports of nice catches of browns and some pretty

sizeable lake trout being taken off the Port of Sheboygan this year. Fishermen are also finding some kings. Hopefully, the browns will continue to feed on the invasive gobies that are found in the lake and rivers. It is apparent this ample food source contributes to larger brown trout, a positive outcome from the presence of an invader. It is difficult to enter any discussion of our fishery without mention of the predator/prey balance. This fragile balance is closely monitored by DNR biologists and yearly fish stocking levels are adjusted accordingly. Each invasive plant or animal that is introduced to a body of water contributes to the complexity of the predator/prey relationship and we all need to do what we can to prevent the spread of additional

invaders. Many people think that there is little the average person can do because the shipping industry is to blame. It is true that most invaders were brought to the Great Lakes through the ballast water of ocean going cargo ships but we can help prevent the spread of non-native species to and from Lake Michigan through the careful cleaning of our boats and equipment and following the rules governing the use of live bait. Ironically, much of our fishery is based on the control of the invasive alewife through the stocking of Chinook salmon and we need to do what we can to ensure its future.

I wish everyone a productive season. See you on the water.  
Luke Hanson

## Club Membership Due for 2014

The Sheboygan Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen club would like to thank all our members for their support and continuing membership. Our organization is one of the longest running sports fishing clubs around the Great Lakes and was even awarded the National Wildlife club of the year for our many community projects. There are so many projects sponsored by our club membership that we would like to remind our membership of just a few that we were involved in over the

years: We maintained the public fish rack and fish cleaning station, provided life rings and boxes, provide free boat rides to the public, hold an annual swap meet, awards banquet, fish contests, donations to maintain the local fish hatchery, informational website, sponsor DNR skills workshop, monthly meetings with guest speakers, donate to kids Coho Derby, promote kids involvement in boating safety, fishing and education. Our club membership was also involved in

making a major donation to help build the Kohler Andrea State Park fishing pond. We added the "Big Fish Challenge" to our yearly fishing contest. We are very fortunate here in Sheboygan, having some of the best trout and salmon fishing in the world right at our doorstep. Please continue to help support our areas Great Lakes sport fishery by filling out the enclosed membership form. Thank you all for your continued support!



## 2014 Swap Meet

The Sheboygan Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen's club held its 12th annual Sport Fishermen's Swap Meet and fundraiser on Saturday, March 22, 2014. Doors opened to the public at 9:00 am and ran until 1:00 pm. This year's event was our best ever with over 65 vendor tables sold and a new record setting attendance. Thousands of items exchanged hands and many bargains were found. This event has always been a good fundraiser for our club and

has had great support from all our membership. The club profited approximately \$2000 from this year's swap meet. Russ Kleinert was this year's chairman and did an outstanding job of hosting our annual swap meet. Please thank him next time you see him for a job well done. Thank you to all the vendors who participated, the volunteers who helped setup/take down tables, worked the sign in table, and

kitchen helpers. Thanks to all that joined us for another successful swap meet and consider booking a table for next year.



## Sheboygan & Ozaukee Great Lakes Sport Fishermen Interclub Contest - in Port Washington

A reminder that the Interclub Fishing contest is coming up on Sunday, July 13, 2014. The Ozaukee club is hosting it in Port Washington. Please consider participating in this great event. You do not need a large boat to fish this contest. When I am able to fish this contest, I use my 16 ft. Starcraft open bow fishing boat. All members who are already fishing the big lake for the season, should be fishing in this event. Also, this event is put together for

the camaraderie of fishing with our friends from the Ozaukee club. It is not intended to be a heavily competitive event, but rather a time to together to have fun and earn bragging rights. It is important that we have good participation this year so that we can retain the traveling trophy and earn those bragging rights. If we do not have adequate participation, it is likely that we will not be able to continue to plan this event in upcoming years.

Please sign up at The Wharf or contact Ken Mueller at 1-920-980-0993, [kmskidog@att.net](mailto:kmskidog@att.net).

Also, Please remember to register your fish you catch this summer for the Club Contest and Big Fish board. Club contest runs through the end of October, Big Fish Board runs through the end of the year. Registration is at The Wharf.

## Big Fish Challenge - 2014

The "Big Fish Challenge" is now underway. The contest will remain the same as prior years and again we will be awarding an additional grand prize of \$500 cash to one of the largest fish entered this season. The winner will be selected from a blind drawing of entries during the club's annual awards banquet held in February 2015. Now every day out fishing

all summer long you have a chance to win. Contest runs April 1 to October 31, 2014. Official contest rules, details and standings board are posted on our club website. Last year's \$500 winner was Andrew Pentek with his big brown trout. Join today for your chance to win.



## Finding a Solution to Invasive Species Locally

If there is a silver-lining with Asian Carp it is the awareness about aquatic invasive species (AIS) they have brought about. Many people are talking about these carp and most have the opinion that they aren't good and we certainly don't want them in our local inland lakes or Lake Michigan.

Most of us are well aware that it was human actions that allowed AIS to get into the Great Lakes and from the Great Lakes into our local lakes and streams. These human actions include the creation of the Welland Canal, dumping of ballast water from huge cargo ships, dumping of water from live wells, dumping of aquariums and the intentional stocking of carp. Once a lake is infested with an AIS, it is pretty much doomed to have that infestation forever.

The Minnesota DNR reported their AIS violations dropped from 31% to 20% in 2013. One in five boaters still violate the laws so education and law enforcement is still needed. Trained watercraft inspectors found over 1200 boats with plants attached and 134 boats with zebra mussels attached.

The key today is 'prevention'. We need to prevent introducing new species into our lakes. You can be part of the solution by following the AIS rules and laws you see posted at all of the area boats landings. These laws require you to inspect and **remove** all plants, animals and materials from your boat, trailer or equipment. You must drain **all** water from your boat and equipment and **never** move live fish.

The key to prevention is 'education' and I'm looking for a few good volunteers to help

educate our boaters on how to prevent spreading AIS in Sheboygan County. Whether you are a high school student, retired or anywhere in between with an appreciation and love for our lakes; you can qualify to become a trained Clean Boats/Clean Waters volunteer. Training classes will begin in late April so please contact me, get involved and become part of the solution. I will only **ask** for 15-20 hours of your time for the entire summer.

Contact: Steve Klock (Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator)  
[steve.klock@sheboygancounty.com](mailto:steve.klock@sheboygancounty.com)  
 or call 946 5921.

## Quagga Mussel (*Dreissena rostriformes bugensis*)

Is a freshwater bivalve mussel native to the Ukraine. The name 'quagga' was named after an extinct subspecies of African zebra whose stripes, like the quagga mussel fade out toward the ventral side. The quagga can be slightly larger than the zebra mussel, about .8". One method to distinguish these 2 species is that the zebra mussel can stand on its ventral side whereas the quagga will tip over. The quagga mussel was first collected in Lake Erie in 1989 at Port Colborne, Ontario and in 1998 from LM. By 2013 it

was estimated that there were about 950 trillion or 500 million tons of quaggas in LM. This is 4 times the total weight of all the forage fish combined.

Adult female quagga mussels can produce up to a million eggs per year. These eggs hatch within several days into microscopic larvae, called 'veligers'. Veligers drift with the currents for 3-4 weeks as the bivalve shell forms. When the veligers become too heavy to drift they will sink and they will then attach to objects by

their strong byssal threads. On average their life cycle is 3-5 years. Being able to out compete the zebra mussel, over 95% of the mussels in LM are now quagga mussels.

The quagga, like the zebra are filter feeders that filter out phytoplankton, zooplankton and algae from over a liter of water per day. These food species are extremely important in the aquatic food chain of LM and these mussels have had a severe negative impact to the food chain.

## Spiny Water Flea

Same old story, this Great Lakes invasive species found its way from NE-Europe in the ballast water of ocean going vessels and was found in Lake Michigan by 1986. Water fleas are a zooplankton or a tiny animal (crustacean) that feeds on smaller zooplankton especially daphnia. Daphnia are a very important part of a fish's food chain. Daphnia feed on algae, which is good and larval fish less than 2" in length feed on daphnia which is good and then larger fish feed on the smaller fish and we catch and eat the biggest fish. That's the way it is supposed to work. But enter the spiny water flea into the picture and this food chain is broken because the small larval fish will

not feed on these spiny critters which results in fewer and smaller larval fish surviving. Perhaps the huge decline in bloater chubs can be linked to the water fleas because this chub is so dependent on abundant daphnia.

Water fleas can reproduce asexually and can produce up to 10 young every 2 weeks. Adults and eggs can easily be transported in water from the bilge, bait buckets or live wells as well as by those clustered to fishing lines and downriggers. Eggs can survive many days out of water. One of the highest densities of spiny water fleas has been recorded in Lake Mendota. Water fleas were discovered in Lake Mendota in

2009 and it is very likely this source came from Lake Michigan via water or as eggs hanging on some fishing gear.

We do not want the spiny water flea or other invasive species to get into our inland lakes; this is why it is so important that we educate boaters to obey the laws and remove all plants and animals from our boat, trailer and equipment and drain all water (dump those buckets too) before we leave the landing. Spread the word so we are not spreading the invasive species. Good fishing!! See you at the ramps.

Steve Klock: Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator in Sheboygan County.

## How will we know if biological conditions have improved in the river?

There has been much thought and discussion among Sheboygan River Fish and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee members, as well as among scientists throughout the Great Lakes region and the nation. Strategies to verify results of the PCB clean-up and habitat restoration work are being developed. Here's a summary of the proposal for the Sheboygan River Area of Concern monitoring for the near future:

**2014:** Sampling will be conducted for contaminants in tree swallows and mink. The quality of the aquatic community including fish population and diversity, benthos population and diversity, and

habitat will be surveyed.

**2015:** Sampling will be repeated for the quality of the aquatic community including fish population and diversity, benthos population and diversity, and habitat. The survey to determine the fish consumption advisory will be conducted. Habitat restoration projects will be evaluated.

**2016:** Sampling will be repeated for quality of the aquatic community including fish population and diversity, benthos population, and diversity and habitat.

**2017:** Sampling will be done to

determine the frequency of fish tumors. The survey to determine the waterfowl consumption advisory for mallards, scaup and Canada geese will be conducted. Surveys on species presence and diversity will be conducted for reptiles and amphibians, breeding birds, mussels, bats, and native plant communities, including presence of invasive plants.

The results of these surveys may identify the need for additional monitoring beyond 2017.

Written by Debbie Beyer, UW Extension Natural Resources Educator

## Presidents Report

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I would like to start out by saying that we had another successful Swap Meet on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped with this event, including the door and kitchen staff, individual organizers, the 4H group which were very impressive as I received great feedback on how much they helped make the Meet a success. Our club also paid them \$150.00 for setup, tear down and clean up. I would also like to give a special thanks to Jennifer Peschke for her help in assisting me on this event. Further information about our Swap Meet can be found in a separate article in this newsletter submitted by Jim Schlegel.



Our club would like to welcome our newest club members listed below:

Cheryl Masterson  
Robert Wiegand & Dolly  
Steve Wakefield & Gina  
Jan Grocholski  
Norbert Repinski  
Dennis Pfeifer  
Jerry Fetterer  
Jonathan Hemb  
Keith Meverdan  
Mark Wiechman  
Joseph Micklitz

Thanks to all for joining our club.

At our last club meeting, we had Glen Seger representing our port's whitefish commercial fishing business. Glen stated that the whitefish are getting smaller due to their food source being depleted. Glen pointed out that one reason for the smaller whitefish is that they are now eating the Quagga and Zebra mussels, and mussels don't contain a great deal of food substance. Glen currently has his nets out in 70 to 110 feet of water, a little south of the harbor. Some of the nets may be suspended, so you should be careful and always have a cutter on hand in case you get too close and get hung up in the nets. Salmon and trout hang around the nets because the nets attract bait fish. For more information on the location of the nets, please check with The Wharf. Additionally, if you do happen to get too close to the nets and lose your probe and/or tackle, you can check with Glen and if he finds your equipment in his nets, he will be happy to return them to you. The Segers are a family-owned business, which was passed down from their father.

Last month we also discussed holding pens for salmon stocking, which would allow the fish to get acclimated to the river. We are still in the investigative stages of this concept. Two of our club members, Jerry Fetterer and Jonathan Hemb, are getting the details so our club members can make a decision as to whether this is something we want to pursue. Therefore, please attend our Fall meeting for further details on this subject.

Now that another fishing season is upon us, the business hours and upcoming events for the two fishing and tackle shops on the river are as follows:

(Continued on next page)

## Presidents Report (Continued)

**The Wharf** – Summer hours are 4:00 AM to 9:00 PM 7 days a week

Junior Coho Derby – June 28<sup>th</sup>

Power Puff Derby – July 16<sup>th</sup>

Coho Derby – Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

*(Anyone donating \$100 to the Junior Coho Derby will receive 20% off Jeff's Tackle.)*

**Angler's Avenue** – Tackle Store Hours – 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM 7 days a week

Pub Hours – Open 11:00 AM 7 days a week

Couples Tournament – June 6<sup>th</sup> (free entry)

Sheboygan Salmon Cup – June 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

Miesfelds Super Salmon Weekend

Best wishes for another successful and fulfilling fishing season.

Submitted by,

Russ Kleinert, President

## Hypothermia

Hypothermia is the lowering of the internal body temperature. If your boat capsizes, please try to get back into the boat, or stay with your boat to reduce the effects of hypothermia. Make sure you keep as much of your body out of the water as possible. If you cannot stay out of the water then make sure your PFD is allowing you to float.

If you should accidentally end up in the water, here are a few steps that you should follow:

1. Wear your PFD.
2. Button up your clothing to help keep you warm.
3. Keep your head out of the water if at all possible.
4. Do not thrash or move around in the water because using excess motion, consumes a lot of energy and will increase the loss of body heat.
5. It is important to draw your knees to your chest and to keep your arms at your sides.

Additionally, it is important to have the following items on hand:

- Light sticks – Save your headlamp batteries. Bend a light stick to make it phosphoresce to help searches find you after dark.
- Always wear a whistle and a small mirror around your neck.
- Make sure to put your cell phone in a zip-type sandwich bag to keep your phone dry and functional, so you can call the Coast Guard if you end up in the water.
- A head lamp in a ditch bag needs to be water proof and should feature a strobe mode, allowing the flashing light to show rescuers where you are in the midst of boat traffic with non-flashing lights.

There are 3 classifications of hypothermia; high probability of death, danger zone, and low

probability of death. Ranges of water temperatures are 30 to 70 degrees, with 70 degrees being the lowest probability of death, 30 to 40 degree water temperature has the highest probability of death, while 50 to 60 degree water temperature is called the danger zone.

I hope you will keep this information in mind so you can have a higher probability of avoiding hypothermia if you know how important is to act quickly. Just remember to stay safe; especially on Lake Michigan where the weather is unpredictable, and always remember to wear your life jacket so if you do happen to fall in the water, it will help keep you afloat. Finally, make sure you have blankets on board so you can keep a person warm after being pulled from the water.

Submitted by:  
Jennifer Peschke

2014 Big Fish Challenge  
 Catch a  
**\$500**  
 Fish this Year  
 \$1,175 in Cash Prizes



P.O. Box 982  
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 www.sheboyganfishingclub.com  
 ADDRESS CORRECTION  
 REQUESTED

