



The Angler's Journal

January/February 2008

MICHIANA WALLEYE
ASSOCIATION

Since 1993

PlanerBoard by Colleen Clayton Gaines

As 2008 begins it seems appropriate to celebrate the achievements the club has reached in 2007. Some significant milestones have been the hugely successful Open House and Kids Fishing Tournament, this being the first year that the MWA was able to award two well-deserved scholarships, and the innovative and exciting changes in the MWA Tournament Schedule. All of these have served to infuse a new energy to the membership as well as brought local recognition to our organization. Not to mention all of the regular activities and physical improvements to the facilities that have filled our calendar.

I have been honored to have served as the Chairman of your Board of Directors for 2007 and want to personally thank my fellow board members, the club's officers, committees, and all the members who have worked so hard to keep this club moving ahead.

Each year three board member terms expire and this year two of the members in these seats have chosen not to run for re-election. Dean Plank and Mike Rhoades are both long-term MWA members and board members. They have each worked very hard over the years and helped to develop the club into where we are today. Please join me in thanking them for their service as your elected Directors.

In the January 5, 2008 club meeting we elected three of five nominees to the Board of Directors. The new board members for the 2008 thru 2010 are: Doug Burkhead, Robert Burns, and Rick Nichols. They will be joining existing board members Les Bontrager, Colleen Clayton Gaines, Ron Hipsher, Kathy Jones, Barry Ukele and Wil Young.

As we move into 2008, I am excited to see how we continue the momentum that 2007 has created. We are beginning a very busy time for the club with the various shows and activities that will soon fill the calendar. This organization certainly offers something for everyone and I look forward to see you at the events throughout the year.

Michiana Walleye Association

www.michianawalleye.com

Contact:

Officers:

<u>President</u>	Rick Nichols	574-282-1916	<u>Vice President</u>	Les Bontrager	574-862-2517
<u>Treasurer</u>	Dewayne Moss	574-276-1042	<u>Sergeant At Arms</u>	Don Shelton	574-532-3271
<u>Secretary</u>	Barry Ukele	574-259-6212			
<u>Building Superintendent</u>	Dave Hayes	574-276-0254			

Board Of Directors

Les Bontrager	574-862-2517	Barry Ukele	574-259-6212	Will Young	574-259-6118
Ron Hipsher	574-257-8327	Colleen Gaines	574-291-7922	Rob Burns	574-360-5083
Kathy Jones	574-272-9966	Rick Nichols	574-282-1916	Doug Burkhead	574-524-0824

Tournament Committee

Randy Gaines	574-291-7922	Mike Rhodes	574-273-0587	Dwight Jones	574-272-9966
Barry Ukele	574-259-6212	Dave Hayes	574-276-0524	Don Shelton	574-532-3271

Club Events Committee

Vacant

Membership Coordinator

Zoe Burns 574-674-6690

Club Enhancement Committee

Les Bontrager	574-862-2517	Bob May	574-299-8096
Bob Wasowski	574-233-5095	Bob Niece	574-255-4188

Membership Care Coordinator

Irene Laudeman 574-259-5015

Web Master

Doug Burkhead 574-524-0824

Scholarship Committee

Roh Hipsher	574-257-8327	Ruth Crofoot	574-295-5333
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Newsletter Committee

Doug Burkhead	574-524-0824	Rick Nichols	574-282-1916
Barry Ukele	574-259-6212	Will Young	574-259-6118

To submit articles or other information please email it to support@michianawalleye.com

Or give it to a newsletter committee person in electronic form: CD, Floppy disc, ETC...

All information must be submitted by the 1st Tuesday of each month.

About Us

The Michiana Walleye Association was founded in 1993 to enhance the St. Joseph River and its surrounding waters in northern Indiana and southern Michigan. We currently have near 200 members dedicated to walleye fishing, preservation, and conservation. We support the Indiana Wildlife Federation, helping to protect our land, air, and waters. MWA is non-profit organization, continually looking for members and sponsors who share our beliefs. MWA also supports the IDNR and its stocking program combined with the cooperation of the state of Michigan DNR. Education of the youth and preservation of the future is our primary goal.

Monthly meetings are held the first Saturday of each month at 6:30 pm on our public grounds. All members and non-members are welcome to attend. 13040 Day Road - Misha-

Please help us with our costs !!!!!

If you have an internet connection and can receive your newsletter by email, please email us at support@michianawalleye.com and ask to be put on the newsletter email list.

Thank you for your support.....

Fishing the U.P.

On January 11th Les Bontrager and friends left for the upper peninsula of Michigan for a weekend of Icefishing. Les was fishing the Manistique Lakes by Curtis Michigan. Before he left, the report was 12 inches of ice the walleye were hitting and the big perch were just starting.



Return

post:

We had a great time walleye fishing was a little slow I did manage some shorts and 1- 20 incher However the perch fishing was great you don't have to go to Canada or Devil's Lake to catch some nice 13 inch perch We had a huge perch fry on Sat. night and then brought home enough for every one a few big meals. The weather was real snowy with and accumulation of about 10 inches in two days the temperture stayed around 30 degrees.

MWA website: If you would like to see more pictures from some of the different events that the MWA is involved with, and you have internet access, just go to www.michianawalleye.com We also have a message board where you can find out what is currently happening with the MWA, or ask question from some of our members.

Well Fund One of the functions of our club is Kid's Fishing Derby's . These are a real blast however I have noticed the disappointment in some of their faces when after three hours they have not caught a fish. We as a club have done a good job in stocking our pond however it will sustain only so many fish. The pond is two to four feet lower then it should be if we raise the water level the pond could sustain more fish and thus make it a better fishery. We also may get a second pond in the next few years for this reason we have decided to pursue putting in a well to fill these ponds. Our first estimate for this well was for \$1400.00 we already have some donations for this project. If you would care to help us with this endeavor send your checks to the Michiana Walleye Association 13040 Day Rd. Mishawaka, IN 46545 and designate it for

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. This money is used to help support our walleye

2008 MWA Meeting Schedule:

January 6th
February 2rd
 March 1st
 April 5th
 May 3rd
 June 7th
 July 12th
 August 2nd
 September 6th
 October 4th
 November 1st
 December 6th

MICHIANA WALLEYE PLEDGE

- **To preserve and protect the waterways and fish there in.**
- **To provide a future for generations yet to come.**
- **To educate those generations so that this tradition may be carried on.**



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Upcoming Events

- Feb. 2, --- Stone Lake Ice Fishing Derby
- Feb. 10--- Ladies Valentine Brunch 11 am
- Feb. 23-24--- NW Steelheaders Outdoor Show
- Feb. 29--- march 1-2 Lunkers Extravaganza
- March 22 --- Easter Egg Hunt
- March 29 --- MWA Open House
- April 5--- Nelson porta pit chicken sale @ Cira's

The Ladies Valentine Brunch will be held on Sunday Feb. 10 at 11 am. The MWA men will prepare a vast array of delicious foods for the enjoyment of all the ladies. If you've not attended this event in the past you don't know what you're missing. Hope you can make it.

Hey guys and gals, got cabin fever? No ice yet? Wishing you were fishing? Well why not come out and visit us at the MWA booth at the Northwest Steelheaders Outdoor Show in Valparaiso at the fairgrounds on Hwy. 49 Feb 23 & 24, 9am-6pm an Sat. and 9am-4pm on Sun. Our booth will be located in Bldg. #1. This is a great show with many tackle dealers, custom rod builders, charter services, outfitters, boats and much more. There will be giveaways throughout the show. We will be raffling off a custom rod and reel combo. The rod will be provided by Carl Chupp of Slick Stick Rods. Hope to see you there.

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 Website: www.peffleyscamp.com
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2008 MWA Tournament news

<u>April 12th & 13th</u>	Detroit River Big Fish "FUN" Tournament.
<u>April 20th</u> (Bremen)	Lake Of The Woods (Cabela's Qualifier).
<u>May 17th</u> (Warsaw)	Winona (Club Point Event)
<u>June 29th</u> (Benton Harbor)	St Joe River, (Cabela's Qualifier).
<u>July 19th</u> (Niles)	St Joe River, (Club Point Event).
<u>Aug 24th</u> Warsaw	Winona (Cabela's Qualifier).
<u>Sept 6th</u> Warsaw	Pike (Family multi species WATCH FOR DETAILS"
<u>Sept. 13th</u>	Maxi (Club Points Event).
Nov TBD	MWA Annual Tournament Awards Banquet

2008 MWA Tournament News & Schedule

It's that time of year again when a group of MWA angling architects set down in an attempt to put together an exciting and fun filled tournament season. This should be quite a year. But before I get to involved in this article I would like to welcome two new additions to the Tournament Committee, Dave Hayes and Don Shelton. They both joined the team in December and have already made a significant impact. I would also like to give a big 'thank you' to Bob "Buck" May for the year he served with the committee. He will be missed. Your 2008 Tournament Committee is Don Shelton, Dave Hayes, Dwight Jones, Mike Rhoades, Barry Ukele, and Randy Gaines. Feel free to contact any of these folks with your questions.

Have you heard the news? Join me in congratulating the top four teams from the Michiana Walleye Association's 2007 Cabela's qualifiers. They are headed to Mobridge SD. June 13th & 14th to fish in the Cabela's 2008 National Championship. Team #1 Randy Gaines & Mike Rhoades, Team #2 Dan Hoffman & Don Shelton, Team #3 Dwight Jones & Bob May, Team #4 Dave Hayes & Adam Hayes. "WAY TO GO GUYS"! We can now turn our nerves to the upcoming season.

So let's take a look at the upcoming MWA tournament season. Do you remember, not so many years ago, we always made an annual club pilgrimage to the Detroit River? What happened to it? Well, what ever it was, we have regained it and placed it first on our list of stops this year. Let me say, this is not a point tournament but what we call a fun tournament. Here's how it will work. The entry fee is \$10.00 per person per day. You are only going to weigh your biggest fish each day. And since this is an individual big fish event you may fish as many folks out of your boat as the coast guard will allow. We will fish 7-3 on Saturday; weigh in and pay out. Then on Sunday we will Fish 7-1; weigh in pay out. Sunday will be a shorter day to allow for travel or a stop at Cabela's to spend your winnings.

Now switching gears a little, you will notice we are going to fish both the Cabela's qualifiers and the MWA Club point tournaments just as we did last year. There have been a couple of major changes to the Cabela's series. These changes are an attempt to put a Tournament Trail with a chance of a major outcome at everyone's disposal. The changes are as follows:

- A) The entry has been reduced from \$300.00 to \$150.00 for all 3 Tournament, if you take advantage of the early registration 02/01/08 – 03/31/08. After that date the cost will be \$60.00 each or \$180.00 for all three.
- B) Teams will no longer be required to have a VHF marine radio on their boat. We will however require that the Tournament committee have one of the Team member's cell phone numbers (Keep in mind, although not required by the MWA a VHF marine radio is a priceless piece of Marine safety equipment).

Here is the tournament schedule for Michiana Walleye Association for the 2008 season, this schedule contains both the Cabela's National Championship qualifiers as well the MWA Point Tournaments. Along with two fun Tournament events. We worked hard to set our season so that we didn't conflict with the Hoosier Walleye Tournament Series and hopefully added some opportunity for folks to fish both tournament series. As the old saying goes "Grab Your Partner".

April 12th & 13th	Detroit River Big Fish "FUN" Tournament.
April 20th	Lake Of The Woods (Bremen) (Cabela's Qualifier).
May 17th	Winona (Club Point Event)
June 29th	St Joe River, Benton Harbor (Cabela's Qualifier).
July 19th	St Joe River, Niles (Club Point Event).
Aug 24th	Winona (Cabela's Qualifier).
Sept 6th	Pike (Family multi species "FUN" Tourn/picnic)
	WATCH FOR DETAILS"
	Sept. 13th Maxi (Club Points Event).
Nov TBD	MWA Annual Tournament Awards Banquet



2008 Michiana Walleye Association, Inc
is sponsoring a Team Tournament Trail with an opportunity to qualify for an invitation to the
2009 Cabela's National Team Championship Tournament

The Tournaments

Maximum of a 25 boat field

Tournament #1	April 20th	Lake Of The Woods. Bremen, IN
Tournament #2	June 29 th	St Joe River. Benton Habor, MI
Tournament #3	August 24 th	Winona Lake. Warsaw, IN

The Cost

3 Tournament Early Registration Discount	2/01/08 to 3/31/08	\$150.00 per team
Single Tournaments Registration	After 4/1/08	\$60.00 per team

Each team will be responsible for any ramp / launch fees when applicable. Circle desired Tournament Circle desired Tournament
Circle desired Tournament

MWA membership Single \$25.00 Family \$40.00 (each participant must be a member)

Approximate breakdown of fee usage

- 70% of the Tournament fee will be paid out to the anglers
- 20% will be held to support teams travel to participate in the Cabela's tournament
- 10% will be reserved for operating expense s for the tournaments

The Payout

The top five teams will receive a prize payout. Assuming a full field of 25 boats

\$400.00 First Place
\$225.00 Second Place
\$125.00 Third Place
\$75.00 Fourth Place
\$50.00 Fifth Place

The day's awards will reduce by 4 % for every team spot not filled.

How to get more information

Stop by any Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:30 pm or the 1st Saturday of any month at 6:00 pm at

Michiana Walleye Association
13040 Day Road
Mishawaka, IN 46545

Email question to: jusjgn@comcast.net

Visit: www.michianawalleye.com or www.indianawalleye.com

These events may result in an invitation to the 2009 Cabela's National Team Championship Tournament and are designed for this intended purpose. However, neither the MWA nor Cabela's will guarantee this outcome as these tournaments are considered among other nationwide events all vying for the same result.



2008 Michiana Walleye Association, Inc Is sponsoring a Team Tournament Trail.

Come join the Michiana Walleye Association and fish our exciting tournament trail. You will have the opportunity to match your angling ability with some of the areas top anglers. At the same time enjoy a day of fellowship chasing the ever elusive Walleye. Regardless of your current tournament experience, the MWA offers a challenging and rewarding way to sharpen your angling skills.

The Tournaments

Maximum of a 25 boat field

Tournament #1	April 12 th &13 th	Detroit River, "Big Fish" (fun Tournament).
Tournament #2	May 17 th	Winona Lake. Warsaw, IN (Club point's event).
Tournament #3	July 19 th	St Joe River. Niles, MI (Club point's event).
Tournament #4	Sept 6 th	Pike lake, Warsaw, IN (Family Tournament/Picnic).
Tournament #5	Sept 13 th	Maxinkuckee Lake. Culver, IN (Club point's event).

Entry Fees:

Must be a member to compete in any MWA event.

MWA membership \$25 single \$40.00 Family.

Detroit River Big Fish Tournament: \$10.00 per individual per day, (Fish as many anglers out of your boat as you like, as long as it does not exceeded the Coast Guard requirements for your vessel.)

Club Points Tournaments: \$50.00 pr Boat/Team (Max of 2 anglers per boat/Team)

Family Tournament: \$10.00 per boat. (Watch For Details)

How to get more information

Stop by any Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:30 pm or the 1st Saturday of any month at 6:00 pm at

Michiana Walleye Association
13040 Day Road
Mishawaka, IN 46545

Email question to: jusjign@comcast.net

Visit: www.michianawalleye.com or www.indianawalleye.com

Ice Plastics While continued

While your buddy is digging through his clothes to dip into his shirt to get another maggot, you can be dropping down the hole and catching another crappie.

But, the real beauty of plastic baits, like Lindy's line up of ice-fishing soft plastics, Techni-Glo Tails and Munchies Tiny Tails with various shapes like the Pin Tail, the Mini Spade, the Split Tail and the Micro Mino, rests in the fact you can take advantage of the feeding frenzy ignited by catching the first crappie or two. Once you start by catching one, you can catch one crappie after another as other fish come close to investigate. But, if you have to stop to re-bait you can't keep the school interested, and if they lose their curiosity, they leave.

The fact the bait is artificial is a double-edged sword. Yes, transport and storage is a snap. But, the action of the bait is now all up to you. Dead-sticking with plastics is not an option.

First, make certain your jig and plastic are aligned properly. A spinning bait is a real turnoff to fish. Test it in the hole and watch how it works before you lower it down. A little spin is OK, but it's better if you have no spin at all.

One way to make plastic appear alive is to use "straight-line" jigs like a Frostee Jig or a Genz Worm dressed with plastic trailer down the hole and "jiggle it" or "pound it" three or four times. Stop, then repeat at 10-second intervals. You can add a tiny Thill float and use the same technique. Look for aggressive biters. No fish in 30 seconds to a minute? Move to the next hole.

If fishing stays tough, try going to the extremes. Finicky fish sometimes want the smallest jig/plastic presentation you can devise. Larger profiles may "match the hatch" and mimic the size of the forage fish crappies are feeding on.

You can also impart different appearances and action by varying the way you put plastic baits on jigs. Create an "L" shape by threading the head of a plastic bait like the Pin Tail onto the hook of a vertical jig, then pull it up the shaft and stick the point into the plastic body as it lies parallel to the bottom.

For another, try something similar to what bass anglers call a "wacky worm." Pinch the tail off a Spade Tail and put the hook through the middle. That leaves two ends dangling.

Another great tip for utilizing soft plastics is to use one of the hottest new baits on ice this year, Lindy's Rattln' Flyer Spoon. Thread your soft plastic on one of the hooks of the treble hook at the bottom of the spoon. Allow the plastic to stick out to the side. Let slack line out and watch your Flyer Spoon "cast" out away from your hole and slowly drag and stop the spoon. Perch will often take the spoon right off of the bottom. Once the spoon is right below your hole, then give it a couple of quick jerks, stop and quiver the spoon. The plastic tail then looks alive!

That's the how. Now, concern yourself with the where. It helps if you took the time to scout the weed lines during open water with your boat and a GPS and sonar. That's much easier than doing it in frigid weather with an auger.

edges in 4 to 14 feet of water. Look for the points and inside turns, especially those that lie in transition areas from sand to mud. The forage base will be richer there. Stay away from brown weeds that sap oxygen from the surrounding area as they decay.

In Mississippi River backwaters, look for the edges of weed patches, lily-pad fields, bull rushes or cane beds that break to deeper water. In reservoirs, check the points and breaks into old river channels. In farm ponds, fish the breaks into the old creek channels. Bluegills will be mixed in with the crappie.

For walleyes, up-size your jigs, such as the Fat Boy XL or Genz Worm XL, and check out the same green vegetation that held crappies. Change up jig colors, and don't forget to try the Glow in Living Color triggering power of Techni-Glo.

Oh, there's one more advantage to plastic baits over live bait. There's no chance your wife will wind up doing the laundry and washing the wax worms you forgot in your pocket.

Notes: *For you walleye anglers, check out the Walleye Masters Institute where more information on walleye fishing is given out in day than you could learn on your own in a year! This school is held twice, once on March 1st, 2008 at Rolling Meadows, Ill. and once on March 15th at Sioux Falls, S.D.*

The Rolling Meadows line-up includes 3 time PWT winner Bob Propst Jr.; 2007 FLW Angler of the Year Jason Pzrekurat; walleye angler Todd Heitkamp, a NOAA weather expert; Ted Takasaki, the 1998 PWT Champion and 1995 PWT Top Gun Angler; and Mike Norris, Chicagoland radio, newspaper and TV personality and top walleye expert. Speakers in Sioux Falls include Heitkamp, Pzrekurat, Takasaki, Norris and all-time PWT money winner Ron Seelhoff. Send a check for \$99 for one session or \$189 for both to the Walleye Masters Institute, P.O. Box 253, North Aurora, IL 60542-0253. For more information, phone (630) 842-8199.

Article supplied by:
Mark Strand Outdoors
strandoutdoors@msn.com

Have you got one of
year???



theses yet this

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Ice Plastics are all the Rave

By Ted Takasaki and Scott Richardson



Live bait vs. artificials. This is an argument that has raged on for years within various open water tournament circuits of various species of fish. Now when it comes to ice fishing, there are even more anglers who are finding that specialized soft plastic baits designed specifically for ice fishing are catching more and bigger fish. Panfish, like crappie, are especially attuned to these soft plastics.

Plastics have several advantages over live-bait alternatives;

No need to stop at a bait shop before each trip;

Plastic baits remove all concerns about keeping live bait from freezing. No more rock-hard wax worms or minnows caught in sus-