

April 2010 News Letter

Program:

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 7. John Flannery will tell us about bass fishing in local area waters.

Notes from the previous meeting

Thanks to Jeff Burg for a most enjoyable and informative talk about steelheads and salmon. His tales of the trip to Brazil were fascinating.

Future Programs through June

!!Mark your calendar so you don't miss the excitement!!

May 5 – Dave Brown, Lake Geneva and river fishing

June 2 – Workshop for the June Kids Derby

Scheduled Events:

June 10 – Salmon Fishing out of Kenosha. Drive as a group on Wednesday. We will depart the harbor at about 12:00 Noon. Cost is about \$120 for each of six people to cover fishing. Call or see Joe Kubica (847.985.4057) for details.

June 12 – Kids Fishing Derby at the clubhouse pond. Volunteers are needed to help with setup and running the events.

June 22-24 – Walleye Fishing at Port Clinton, Lake Erie. Drive as a group Tuesday, fish Wednesday and Thursday, and then return home Thursday afternoon. The cost is \$260.00 for each of six people to cover fishing and lodging (meals not included). Call or see Gary Buehre (630.279.0696) for details.

September 8 - Salmon Fishing out of Kenosha. Drive as a group on Wednesday. We will depart the harbor at about 6:00 AM. Cost is about \$120 for each of six people to cover fishing. Call or see Joe Kubica (847.985.4057) for details.

Sun Times Midwest Fishing Report

Click to <http://www.suntimes.com/sports/outdoors/index.html>.

TROUT OPENER: Spring trout season opens Saturday in Illinois. Those 16 and older need a fishing license and an inland trout stamp. Daily bag is five. Nearby sites include Axehead, Belleau and Sag Quarry East (Cook County), Grove, Pickerel and Silver (DuPage), Gebhard Woods State Park Pond (Grundy), Bird Park Quarry and Rock Creek (Kankakee), Big Lake at Silver Springs SP (Kendall), Sand Lake at Illinois Beach SP and Banana (Lake), Lake Atwood and Piscasaw Creek (McHenry) and Lake Milliken at Des Plaines Conservation Area.

HEIDECKE OPENER: The former cooling lake near Morris reopens at 6 a.m. Thursday for boaters and at 6:30 a.m. for bank fishermen. It closes at sunset. New regulations: Crappie have a daily bag of 15, and largemouth and smallmouth bass have a protected slot (12 to 18 inches) with a daily creel of three (only one may be longer than 18 inches). Biologist Rob Miller said the crappie regs are to protect a beginning fishery. Walleye remain solid. There was another stocking of 133,000 2-inch fish. He said 60 degrees seems to be the magic number for catching them (opening day will not be near that). Catfish remain decent. Bluegills are OK, though there aren't many big ones. The muskie limit is now 48 inches, in essence a catch-and-release reg. Hybrids are solid, but the big ones (weighing in the teens) haven't been seen for a while.

CHICAGO SMELT: Season is open during April. Nets may be set at 7 p.m., and netters must be out of the parks by 1 a.m. Don't expect much, other than socializing.

NORTHEAST ILLINOIS REG CHANGES: As of Thursday, these regulations change.

Busse: All live bait in excess of 8 inches must be rigged with a quick-set rig. **Heidecke:** See above. **Kankakee/Iroquois rivers:** Walleye, sauger and saugeye must be 14 inches or longer, with a protected slot from 18 to 26 inches. The daily creel is three, only one of which can be longer than 26 inches. **Mallard:** All live bait in excess of 8 inches must be rigged with a quick-set rig. **Whalon:** Two-pole and line-fishing only.

AREA LAKES: Trout opens Saturday. Crappie action is picking up areawide. Henry's received better reports from Tampier and Saganashkee. Other species should all improve as waters warm.

CHAIN O'LAKES AREA: Triangle reported crappie are good in the channels. Walleye are good around current and bridges. Bass should be good toward shoreline and weeds with the warmup. Bluegills are with the crappie.

COOLING LAKES/STRIP PITS: MAZONIA/BRAIDWOOD: The Mazonia lakes remain very cool (40s). Catfish action (takes sorting) remains very good on Braidwood, which has cooled from its opening weeks. Close is 7:30 p.m. **LaSALLE:** The lake is open every day in April. This is a good shore and boat fishery for multiple species.

DOWNSTATE NOTES: SHELBYVILLE: Guide Ken Wilson -- (217) 454-2672 -- reported good crappie on deep ledges (14 to 15 feet) off river channels with pearl jigs. Sauger and walleye are fair below the spillway. Water is warming toward 50 degrees, and lake is slightly over winter pool. **SPRING:** Muskie fishing has slowed slightly, but plenty are trying for bass and/or muskies, according to site staff.

FOX RIVER: WESTERN SUBURBS: Ken Gortowski said the clarity is good despite the high water. He expects it to be wadeable for weekend anglers and suggests the first quarter-mile of creeks will be best.

ILLINOIS RIVER: STARVED ROCK AREA: As the MWC tournament showed, the river is in good shape and the sauger and walleye are in the spawn. That should hold through Easter, and the warmup might kick in white bass.

KANKAKEE RIVER: Ed Mullady reported catfish are hitting throughout. Smallmouth are improving around Momence, the state park and Wilmington Island Park. Walleye are good east of Momence, in the state park and at Wilmington Island Park. Largemouth are hitting in Indiana at the Point north of English Lake.

LAKEFRONT: CHICAGO: Henry's reported perch being caught in the river around 92nd and 95th (takes sorting) and some at Navy Pier. Trout and coho are at the Shedd, at the pipe at Burnham and at 31st and 63rd. Park Bait reported some nice browns at Diversey, coho at Montrose and browns and coho at Belmont. **WAUKEGAN:** Salmon Stop reported browns off the south rocks and government and Johnson piers on frozen shad or shiner. A smattering of coho on spoons. Expect the perch boats to be out this week.

NORTHERN WISCONSIN: EAGLE RIVER: Minocqua guide Kurt Justice expects today to be the last for ice fishing.

NORTHWEST INDIANA: Much will change in the next few days as more explore for coho and the school of jumbo perch. Mik-Lurch said steelhead remain good in the creeks, and smallmouth are starting to go along the shorelines. Trollers are taking some browns and coho at the hole-in-wall and shipping channel.

ST. JOSEPH AREA, MICH.: BJ Sports reported a charter taking limits of coho near the hot water by the Cook plant. The pier and Berrien Springs have slowed, but that might hange with the weather.

SHABBONA LAKE: Lakeside is open. Water is warming through the 40s. Action should be going by the weekend if the magic 50 is hit.

SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN LAKEFRONT: The Wisconsin DNR reported many trying (with decent success) for steelhead and browns on the Root. Flows on the Pike are low and steelhead are slow.

WISCONSIN RIVER, WIS.: DELLS: River's Edge reported more keeper walleye and scattered smallmouth and crappie. Water is 41 degrees.

+++++

We meet the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM at the North Terrace Pond Clubhouse on Westmont and Terrace (approximately 6 blocks south of North Avenue and 3 blocks west of Addison) in Villa Park. Annual dues are \$30. Visitors or prospective new members are welcome - a \$3 fee is requested. If you are interested in attending or becoming a member please contact: Marty Kopolczynski at (630) 932-1923.

Program:

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 7. John Flannery will tell us about bass fishing in local area waters.

Notes from the previous meeting

Thanks to Jeff Burg for a most enjoyable and informative talk about steelheads and salmon. His tales of the trip to Brazil where fascinating.

Future Programs through June

!!Mark your calendar so you don't miss the excitement!!

May 5 – Dave Brown, Lake Geneva and river fishing

June 2 – Workshop for the June Kids Derby

Scheduled Events:

June 10 – Salmon Fishing out of Kenosha. Drive as a group on Wednesday. We will depart the harbor at about 12:00 Noon. Cost is about \$120 for each of six people to cover fishing. Call or see Joe Kubica (847.985.4057) for details.

June 12 – Kids Fishing Derby at the clubhouse pond. Volunteers are needed to help with setup and running the events.

June 22-24 – Walleye Fishing at Port Clinton, Lake Erie. Drive as a group Tuesday, fish Wednesday and Thursday, and then return home Thursday afternoon. The cost is \$260.00 for each of six people to cover fishing and lodging (meals not included). Call or see Gary Buehre (630.279.0696) for details.

September 8 - Salmon Fishing out of Kenosha. Drive as a group on Wednesday. We will depart the harbor at about 6:00 AM. Cost is about \$120 for each of six people to cover fishing. Call or see Joe Kubica (847.985.4057) for details.

Sun Times Midwest Fishing Report

Click to <http://www.suntimes.com/sports/outdoors/index.html>.

TROUT OPENER: Spring trout season opens Saturday in Illinois. Those 16 and older need a fishing license and an inland trout stamp. Daily bag is five. Nearby sites include Axehead, Belleau and Sag Quarry East (Cook County), Grove, Pickerel and Silver (DuPage), Gebhard Woods State Park Pond (Grundy), Bird Park Quarry and Rock Creek (Kankakee), Big Lake at Silver Springs SP (Kendall), Sand Lake at Illinois Beach SP and Banana (Lake), Lake Atwood and Piscasaw Creek (McHenry) and Lake Milliken at Des Plaines Conservation Area.

HEIDECHE OPENER: The former cooling lake near Morris reopens at 6 a.m. Thursday for boaters and at 6:30 a.m. for bank fishermen. It closes at sunset. New regulations: Crappie have a daily bag of 15, and largemouth and smallmouth bass have a protected slot (12 to 18 inches) with a daily creel of three (only one may be longer than 18 inches). Biologist Rob Miller said the crappie regs are to protect a beginning fishery. Walleye remain solid. There was another stocking of 133,000 2-inch fish. He said 60 degrees seems to be the magic number for catching them (opening day will not be near that). Catfish remain decent. Bluegills are OK, though there aren't many big ones. The muskie limit is now 48 inches, in essence a catch-and-release reg. Hybrids are solid, but the big ones (weighing in the teens) haven't been seen for a while.

CHICAGO SMELT: Season is open during April. Nets may be set at 7 p.m., and netters must be out of the parks by 1 a.m. Don't expect much, other than socializing.

NORTHEAST ILLINOIS REG CHANGES: As of Thursday, these regulations change.

Busse: All live bait in excess of 8 inches must be rigged with a quick-set rig. **Heidecke:** See above. **Kankakee/Iroquois rivers:** Walleye, sauger and saugeye must be 14 inches or longer, with a protected slot from 18 to 26 inches. The daily creel is three, only one of which can be longer than 26 inches. **Mallard:** All live bait in excess of 8 inches must be rigged with a quick-set rig. **Whalon:** Two-pole and line-fishing only.

AREA LAKES: Trout opens Saturday. Crappie action is picking up areawide. Henry's received better reports from Tampier and Saganashkee. Other species should all improve as waters warm.

CHAIN O'LAKES AREA: Triangle reported crappie are good in the channels. Walleye are good around current and bridges. Bass should be good toward shoreline and weeds with the warmup. Bluegills are with the crappie.

COOLING LAKES/STRIP PITS: MAZONIA/BRAIDWOOD: The Mazonia lakes remain very cool (40s). Catfish action (takes sorting) remains very good on Braidwood, which has cooled from its opening weeks. Close is 7:30 p.m. **LaSALLE:** The lake is open every day in April. This is a good shore and boat fishery for multiple species.

DOWNSTATE NOTES: SHELBYVILLE: Guide Ken Wilson -- (217) 454-2672 -- reported good crappie on deep ledges (14 to 15 feet) off river channels with pearl jigs. Sauger and walleye are fair below the spillway. Water is warming toward 50 degrees, and lake is slightly over winter pool. **SPRING:** Muskie fishing has slowed slightly, but plenty are trying for bass and/or muskies, according to site staff.

FOX RIVER: WESTERN SUBURBS: Ken Gortowski said the clarity is good despite the high water. He expects it to be wadeable for weekend anglers and suggests the first quarter-mile of creeks will be best.

ILLINOIS RIVER: STARVED ROCK AREA: As the MWC tournament showed, the river is in good shape and the sauger and walleye are in the spawn. That should hold through Easter, and the warmup might kick in white bass.

KANKAKEE RIVER: Ed Mullady reported catfish are hitting throughout. Smallmouth are improving around Momence, the state park and Wilmington Island Park. Walleye are good east of Momence, in the state park and at Wilmington Island Park. Largemouth are hitting in Indiana at the Point north of English Lake.

LAKEFRONT: CHICAGO: Henry's reported perch being caught in the river around 92nd and 95th (takes sorting) and some at Navy Pier. Trout and coho are at the Shedd, at the pipe at Burnham and at 31st and 63rd. Park Bait reported some nice browns at Diversey, coho at Montrose and browns and coho at Belmont. **WAUKEGAN:** Salmon Stop reported browns off the south rocks and government and Johnson piers on frozen shad or shiner. A smattering of coho on spoons. Expect the perch boats to be out this week.

NORTHERN WISCONSIN: EAGLE RIVER: Minocqua guide Kurt Justice expects today to be the last for ice fishing.

NORTHWEST INDIANA: Much will change in the next few days as more explore for coho and the school of jumbo perch. Mik-Lurch said steelhead remain good in the creeks, and smallmouth are starting to go along the shorelines. Trollers are taking some browns and coho at the hole-in-wall and shipping channel.

ST. JOSEPH AREA, MICH.: BJ Sports reported a charter taking limits of coho near the hot water by the Cook plant. The pier and Berrien Springs have slowed, but that might hange with the weather.

SHABBONA LAKE: Lakeside is open. Water is warming through the 40s. Action should be going by the weekend if the magic 50 is hit.

SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN LAKEFRONT: The Wisconsin DNR reported many trying (with decent success) for steelhead and browns on the Root. Flows on the Pike are low and steelhead are slow.

WISCONSIN RIVER, WIS.: DELLS: River's Edge reported more keeper walleye and scattered smallmouth and crappie. Water is 41 degrees.

+++++

We meet the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM at the North Terrace Pond Clubhouse on Westmont and Terrace (approximately 6 blocks south of North Avenue and 3 blocks west of Addison) in Villa Park. Annual dues are \$30. Visitors or prospective new members are welcome - a \$3 fee is requested. If you are interested in attending or becoming a member please contact: Marty Kapolczynski at (630) 932-1923.