

## Program:

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 1, 2013.

Check out our web site: [www.great-lakes.org/vpsc](http://www.great-lakes.org/vpsc).

You are just a click away from pictures of Salmon and Walleye trips, previous news letters and more about our Villa Park Sportsmen's Club. You may also send information to be posted on the web site to [villaparksportsman@att.net](mailto:villaparksportsman@att.net).

## BYOB Fishing

Where's your favorite fishing hole? Call and we'll set up a meet; Joe Nutt (630)961-1513 or Gary Buehre (630)279-0696 or Adolph Janke (630)843-7193.

## Future Programs and Scheduled Events

June 5 – Regular Meeting. This meeting we will prepare for the Saturday derby.

June 8 – Kids Fishing Derby at the clubhouse pond. Volunteers are needed to help with setup and running the events.

June 19 – Salmon Fishing out of Kenosha. Drive as a group on Wednesday. We will depart the harbor at about 12:00 Noon. Cost is about \$100 for each of six people to cover fishing. A Wisconsin license is required. Call or see Joe Kubica for details.

July 18 – Salmon Fishing out of Kenosha. Drive as a group on Wednesday. We will depart the harbor at about 12:00 Noon. Cost is about \$100 for each of six people to cover fishing. A Wisconsin license is required. Call or see Joe Kubica for details.

September 4 – Regular Meeting.

September TBD – Salmon Fishing out of Kenosha. TBD

October 2 – Regular Meeting.

November 6 – Regular Meeting.

December 4 – This will be our Christmas Party. Bring a dish to share. The Club will supply ham, sodas, and coffee.

From the 'Midwest Outdoors' web site. <http://midwestoutdoors.com/magazine>

April, 2013

## **April Showers Bring Spring Brown Trout!**

By Capt. Lee Haasch

Spring rains mean a couple of things to me. First, water levels, after seeing the city of Algoma spend all winter and over \$200,000 dredging the municipal marina this winter to keep deep-water slips and nice launching facilities for our angling guests; every drop of moisture going into the lake is much needed. Second, spring rains means ice-out and time to target those "silvery footballs"—the brown trout.

Brown trout have been probably my favorite fish to target ever since my days as a youngster, wading out into the lake for hours at a time casting small Cleos and Champs with light tackle. Back before I had a boat for trolling, these coastline travelers were the most accessible to shore fishermen. Whether slipping on a pair of waders or standing on the piers, the brown trout were common catches, especially in the springtime with the colder water.

A few things have changed over the years. One change has been the clarity of the water. Since the zebra mussels invaded the Great Lakes, we have seen water clarity improve greatly. What this means to the brown trout angler is instead of angling in 6 to 12 feet of water, browns spook easily, and anglers need to shift outside to 15 to 30 feet of water. This opens up a whole new selection of baits to target with.

Before, stick baits dominated our selection in the shallow water. Slowing down or turning in

the shallows meant using floating stick baits that would rise to the surface instead of sinking into the rocky bottom and snagging up. Now we can look to other options, like spoons and even small flashers and flies to target the browns.

Not only does the deeper water open up the bait selection, it opens up the way we fish for the browns. Now, downriggers and dipsy divers come into play. Before these options were difficult because of how shallow we were fishing. This also makes it much easier to place our lures at specific depths and keep them in the “strike zone.”

I also like running slide divers for browns. By letting out 50, 60 or even 100 feet behind the divers, then setting them, you present your baits not only at suspended depths, but back a ways behind the boat.

I also like using long leads behind the downriggers to also keep the baits a ways back from the boat. These are great places to run spoons or sometimes a flasher and fly combo.

Planer boards still play a big role in brown trout trolling. Just as in the shallow waters, planer boards enable the angler to place baits wide from the boat in front of browns that spooked wide from the path of the boat. These wider-spread lures I tend to run shallower to target more aggressive browns cruising higher up in the water column. This is also a great place to run some stick baits. Inner boards will often get large, lipped deep divers or Husky Jerks, and outer boards will often get floaters.

As I mentioned earlier, sliding out a few feet deeper enabled the use of more diverse bait selections. Some of my favorite brown trout baits are spoons. When trolling in 6 to 10 feet of water in the rocky areas north of Algoma, it was difficult to keep the spoons from snagging in the rocks. In deeper water, it is much easier to run spoons without the fear of hanging up on structure. One way to ensure this is to pay close attention to your GPS plotter screen and carefully follow the bottom contours.

Some of my favorite spoons for brown trout are the smaller, lighter spoons. A couple that occupy the working side of my fluorocarbon are the R&R Razor Spoon in the froggy patterns, especially the Albino Frog and the Warrior Flutter Spoon in the perch patterns; my favorite is the Blue Perch. In the springtime, browns cruise the shoreline hunting for tasty meals of smelt, alewife and other small baitfish. Baits imitating these tasty meals, not only in action, but in color patterns, will often lure the browns to your net.

Another important aspect when targeting spring browns is paying close attention to water temperature. Areas with slight increases in temperature—as little as a degree or two—will tend to attract more bait and thus more active browns. Some of these patches of warmer water are areas that contain water that is slightly cloudy. The cloudier water tends to absorb more sunlight and warm faster than the clear water. I like to mark these areas and make several passes through these spots, often producing several strikes with each pass.

A bonus in the spring is lake trout. Lakers are known to travel the shallows in the spring feeding also. Laker trout seem to take a liking to orange baits. Orange/gold Rapalas, R&R Razor Flamethrowers, and Warrior Flutter Naughty Natalies are a few of my favorite laker takers. Trolled the same way and in the same places, that is why I consider them the bonus fish. Not only are the lake trout caught in the cold spring waters great table fare, but when you get a fish on, you never know what it will be. I've even taken a few kings in the shallows on light line. What a fight that is!

That brings up a third point with the water clarity—stealth! Not only do we need to be cautious to keep our tackle light, but 8- to 12-pound fluorocarbon is a must for leaders, and I spool my planer board rods (8'6" Ugly Stik Lite) with 40-pound Stren Sonic Braid. My

downriggers are running straight eight-pound fluorocarbon. With the gin clear water, every little bit helps.

For more information or current fishing reports, visit my website at [www.FishAlgoma.com](http://www.FishAlgoma.com), or if you are looking for current information on dockage, boat launching, lodging or other charter fishing options in the Algoma area, visit the Algoma Chamber of Commerce at [www.Algoma.org](http://www.Algoma.org).

From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the Grand Illusion 2, we wish all of you full coolers, and hope to see you all on the water!

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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.