



Fishin' Tales

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

December Meeting / Christmas Party

- **When:**
Tuesday, December 18, 2012
7:30pm
- **Where:**
American Polish Cultural Center
North West corner
15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre
- **Featured :**
'Salmon Clause', Skipper of the Year, Big Fish, Director & Member of the Year trophy presentations, Door Prizes
- **Other Happenings:**
Christmas Party.
- **Up-To-Date Information on the DAS website at:**
www.detroitsteelheaders.com



Volume XXXVII, Issue XII December 2012



Be sure and not to miss the DAS Christmas party – meeting on Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 pm. For the kids, there will be a surprise visit from "Salmon Clause" and he'll have presents for all the good little girls and boys.

In addition, there will be trophy presentations for Skipper of the Year, Big Fish of the Year, as well as Director of the Year and Member of the Year awards. Bring the whole family and share in the fun!

LSSU Partnership Means More Atlantic Salmon in Michigan Waters

Michigan became world-famous when it made a daring effort to revitalize the Great Lakes sport fishery by stocking Pacific salmon in the 1960s. While Chinook and Coho fishing still remain very good overall, Michigan is now looking at residents of the other ocean to beef up the Great Lakes fishery: Atlantic salmon.

Highly prized around the world for their sporting characteristics, Atlantic salmon are currently thriving in the St. Mary's River, the connecting water that drains Lake Superior and flows into Lake Huron. Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Fisheries Division personnel hope to expand the Atlantic salmon fishery further into Lake Huron.

Atlantics already have a presence in Lake Huron, often turning up for sport fishermen in a number of ports. At times, the Atlantic salmon catch surpasses the Pacific salmon catch at some locations, such as De Tour.



"We're not replacing Pacific salmon with Atlantics," explained Todd Grischke, the DNR's Lake Huron Basin coordinator. "We're trying to bolster the existing fishery and create an additional river-return fishery in other locations.

"And we're adapting to the changes in the ecosystem. Since the invasion of quagga mussels, the lake no longer produces the alewives that are necessary to support a large Chinook population.

"Atlantic salmon return to creel at a higher rate than any of our other stocked salmonids," Grischke continued. "We're hoping to play off that success. The St. Mary's fishery works. We want to make it even better, and we want to bolster the off-shore fishery, too."

Although the DNR has been working with Atlantic salmon for decades, their presence in the St. Mary's River falls to Lake Superior State University's Aquatic Research Laboratory. The lab churns out the 25,000

Atlantic salmon annually that have created the fishery. Originally begun as a way to give students hands-on training, the lab started with a grant from the Michigan Fish Producers Association to research whitefish. The lab began working with Atlantics in the 1980s when it received a shipment of eggs from Gull Lake, where the DNR was stocking Atlantics, as explained by Roger Greil, who runs the lab.

Despite several false starts – Atlantics are delicate fish, vulnerable to disease and environmental constraints – Lake Superior State University's lab used the Michigan fish, and additional eggs obtained from Maine, to establish the Atlantics. The lab saw the first returns of the program in 1990 and soon began taking eggs from the returning salmon. By 2004, the lab began using only St. Mary's River Atlantics for broodstock (mature male and female fish that are kept separate for breeding purposes).

Since then, the lab has been self-sustaining. On site at the power house owned by a local power cooperative in Sault Ste. Marie, the lab not only produces the 25,000 Atlantics needed at the St. Mary's River, but has also been sending surplus fish to the DNR for stocking in Torch Lake. Now the DNR is experimentally raising Atlantics at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery with an eye toward stocking Lake Huron.

"This year, for the first time, the fish are healthy, growing well and disease-free," Grischke said. "We are attempting to produce 80,000 yearlings, which we'll be stocking into Lake Huron. We're still in the process of learning how to best rear this species at the hatchery, and still deciding how those fish will be allocated."

Adult Atlantics usually begin showing up in the St. Mary's River in June and are present in good numbers by the time the Aquatic Research Lab begins egg-take in the fall.

"We try setting our gill nets the last three days of October and we'll hold the fish in our raceways," explained Greil. "Normally our egg-take starts around Nov. 4 and is wrapped up by Nov. 14. We do two or three egg-takes a week, usually 25 to 30 females each time. Our goal is to do 100 pairs a year.

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Membership News

New Membership **WELCOME!**

WILLIAM PERCH

Renew Memberships

ROD ELNICK

CAPT. STEVE JONES

MIKE LEHTO

DAVID HOPCROFT

JOHN KRAWCZYK

LYNN MARTIN

Memberships Expired or Soon to be Expired

JIM FITCH

DAN WHITMILL

HOWARD YORK

JOHN MEADE

NANCY WOOD

ANNOUNCING NEW DAS FIELD TEST PROGRAM

WHY

- Member involvement
- Member benefit
- Test new products
- Selling point for new members
- Help members with useful reports done by fellow sportsmen.

HOW

- After 50/50 drawing another ticket will be drawn and winner can pick a product to test. I will try to have two season specific items available for them to choose from that way one will suit their interests. The lucky member then would need to write an article about the product for the newsletter. If they fulfill their part by writing the article maybe we could give them a 50/50 or tackle raffle ticket.
- If the member does not write the article they are no longer eligible for the program.
- Members are eligible only once per year

FUNDING

- Vendor Donation
- Increased profit from changing 75/25 to 50/50

Salmon In The Classroom, Progress Report: November 19, 2012

Early in October Tim and I went to the school in Armada to pick up the tank and equipment that was purchased and used last year for the SIC at the Armada Middle School. When we arrived there and were brought back to the classroom to pick the unit up, to our surprise the equipment had not been maintained or taken care of prior to storage throughout the summer. All of the hoses were filled with mold; the filtration system was also filled with mold and still had last year's water in it. The lids were broken and corroded. We were both very disappointed and also worried about the chiller unit as that too was stored for the summer with water in it. We took all the equipment back to our home and went through it all cleaning the tank thoroughly, and trying to get equipment working properly. The filter was not working, Tim took it apart, cleaned it all up and got it working. However it didn't seem to be running correctly and when I looked into how much the filter supplies (cartridges) were to replace. I decided to buy another filter, which I knew would be in good working order and the replacement cartridges were about 1/8 the cost. Tim and I spent hours cleaning and fixing what we could. We bought new hoses for the chiller unit and were happy to see that it ran but it had all sorts of mold and debris was coming out of it. So we ran it at our home for hours until it was running clean and saw that it could maintain 47 degree temp. Once we had everything we needed either in working order or purchased we brought the equipment to David's school, Andersonville Elementary. On

October 23rd I spent the afternoon setting up the aquarium and filling it with water. We had wanted to include the 4th grade students in this process but we needed to meet the two week deadline the DNR had set for having the tank set up and running prior to egg pickup. The tank ran smoothly with only little debris coming out of the cooler, which quickly (about 3 days) cleaned up with the new filter system. The 4th grade students along with many other students at Andersonville were getting quite excited and would go into the classroom daily to check to see if the eggs had made it to the tank yet.

On November 7th. Andrea Lockwood, David's 4th grade classroom teacher and Pam Bills, the other 4th grade classroom

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DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.

P.O. Box 1255 Sterling Hgts., MI 48311-1255

Membership Application

- New Member - \$25 Yearly Renewal - \$25 Yearly Lifetime - \$150
 Senior (65 & over)- \$10 Yearly Address Change only Amt. paid _____

NAME		DATE
ADDRESS		
CITY, STATE ZIP	HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE
BOAT NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	



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Wild Game Dinner, Raffles
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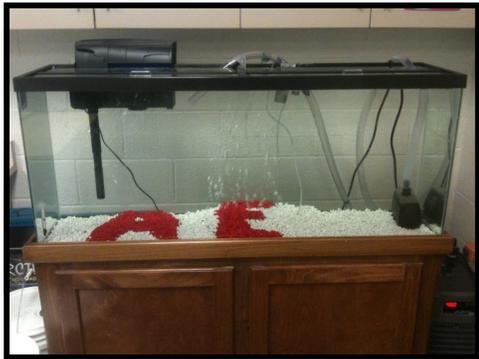
MARK WILLIAMS

Speakers & Education
810-395-8789



SIC from Page 2

teacher met at Andersonville at 5am to travel across the state to Wolf Lake Hatchery. We arrived there at 8:30 and had some time to look around prior to the 9am start of the seminar. The seminar was very well organized and we learned a lot about the history of salmon and how the hatchery operates. At 3:15 we were back in the car for our 2-½ hour journey home that turned into a little over 3 hours with rush hour traffic. Once back at Andersonville, Andrea, Pam and I took the eggs into the school and started the process of acclimating the eggs to the tank. Tim came up to the school to watch and keep us company as we went through the process of exchanging 25% of the water in the zip lock bag with tank water, we did this every 15 minutes until the water temp was 47 degrees. This process took us about 66 minutes and at 7:33pm we slowly poured our eggs into the breeder bag and set them gently on the bottom of the tank.



On Nov. 8th we introduced the 4th grade students to the salmon eggs they will be caring for this year; the excitement was more than I had imagined. I was also surprised at how many students already had some general knowledge about salmon and how many students have a real desire to learn more about them.

The tank has been maintaining its temp and water conditions have stayed steady. On Nov 14th we lost our first egg. That was a sad day for all. But also a good lesson for the students, However Today Nov 19th was a very exciting and happy day for us at Andersonville our first egg has started to hatch. When I went in to check on the aquarium and the eggs while I was looking for any dead eggs (as they turn white) one egg seemed to be floating, at closer inspection it was not floating, rather it was swimming. A little head out one side of the egg and an iridescent tail out the

other side and was swimming around. Many of the other eggs have gone from what looks like a small dot in the center of the pinkish egg to now you can actual start to see a tiny shape of a fish in the eggs.

Being a part of this program has been a lot of work for me so far but seeing the students faces and watching them interact and ask questions and see their desire to learn has made it so worth the hours and hours I have spent preparing for the eggs. Thank you DAS!!!

The expenses we have acquired thus far total \$651.25; this includes all the equipment I had to replace, or parts I had to purchase to fix. It also includes all supplies that will be needed for the entire year for water testing, filtration, and maintenance. I was not going to purchase new lids for the tank but the representative from the DNR said we must have them as once the eggs hatch the fish will jump out of the tank.

The only other expense we should have is for the Buses to take the kids to the river for release of the fish. Our district does not allow parents to transport the students, so a bus will be required. I have a phone call in to the DNR to see if they have a closer approved location for release, as the closest one on their list of approved sites is about an hour and 15-minute bus ride for us. Once I have the location I will have an amount of what that expense will be.

Side Note: After my experience this year, DAS needs to make it known to all sponsored schools and their representatives that maintenance and proper storage is a requirement and we will not pay for the replacement of items that were stored improperly.

Roughly 3/4 of the expenses have been first year setup expenses. Many of which I should not have had to incur if proper storage would of taken place.

Thank you DAS!

Jody Robinson and the 4th grade classes at Andersonville Elementary .



Detroit Area Steelheaders Board of Director Elections

DAS By-Laws call for Board of Directors election at the annual meeting. This year's annual meeting will occur on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at our normal meeting location (APCC).

Any dues paying member or officer can place a nomination. A nomination must be submitted at least 20 days (November 28) before the election. It should be in writing and signed. If you wish to become involved in the operation of the DAS you are welcome to run for election to the BOD.

New people bring new ideas, different perspective, and enthusiasm. Your club needs you. Please consider placing yourself in nomination for a club BOD position.

To submit a name for this year's ballot:

Mail it - email it - or write it up and give it to me at any monthly membership meeting.

Include the person's name and contact information. Have the nominated person sign it so we all know he/she is willing to serve if elected.

Dan Chisholm
 47833 Mallard Dr.
 Chesterfield, MI. 48047
 dan.chisholm223@gmail.com

Nomination to DAS BOD ----- December 21, 2010 Election

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email Address: _____

BIO: _____



Upcoming 2012-2013 DAS Key Dates

Tues. Dec. 18, 2012 **Membership Meeting (Christmas Party)**
7:30pm American Polish Cultural Center

Thur. Jan. 10, 2013 (3 - 9:30) **Ultimate Fishing Show**
Fri. Jan. 11, 2013 (11 - 9:30) Suburban Collection Showplace
Sat. Jan. 12, 2013 (10 - 9)
Sun. Jan. 13, 2013 (10 - 5)

Tues. Jan. 15, 2013 **BOD Meeting**
7:00pm American Polish Cultural Center

Tues. Jan. 29, 2012 **Membership Meeting**
7:30pm American Polish Cultural Center

November Membership Meeting Facts

Attendance: 37

Speaker: Mark Stosiak on Fiberglass Restoration

50/50 Raffle Winner: \$80 Fred Hynick
\$75 Carl Ventimiglia Sr.

Every Member Drawing Name: No Drawing

Atlantics Cont'd from Page 1

“We don’t have a lot of problems collecting the fish we need for egg-take. We capture what we can handle.”

Once captured, the fish are stripped of their reproductive products by hand and are fertilized on a one-to-one basis. The fertilized eggs are placed in egg trays.

By mid-December, Greil said staff starts seeing “eye-up” – a growth stage at which the eggs are determined to be viable – and hatching generally follows by the first of January. By mid-February, they’re moved into indoor raceways, and in June are transferred to larger rearing containers. The yearlings have to be moved out in June in order to make room in the larger raceways for the younger fish; otherwise, it gets awfully crowded.

The raceways that hold the fish can be drained directly into the river.

“Just being reared in the same water is what gives us a fairly high return rate,” Greil said. “We don’t see a lot of wandering, if any. They’ve been reported in the river up in Georgian Bay in the spring of the year, but I believe they are in there chasing smelt.”

“The only thing that’s transported is our surplus fish,” he added. That reduction in transportation is a big plus to the operation.

Greil is pleased with the Atlantic salmon-rearing program and optimistic about its future expansion. That’s good news for the resident and visiting sport fishermen eager to add Atlantics to their catch in coming seasons.

“It seems to be a good fishery,” he said. “We get people coming from all over to fish for them.”

To learn more about Lake Superior State University’s Aquatic Research Laboratory, visit www.lssu.edu/arl. To learn more about the Department of Natural Resources’ fish production, stocking and management programs, visit www.michigan.gov/hatcheries.

ROBERT M. JONES
315 EAGLE WAY
S LYON, MI 48178

Membership expires: 413



PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE
GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY FOR
OVER 35 YEARS

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