

Fishin' Tales

October 2004
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www.detroitsteelheaders.org

Inside this Issue

- 1 October Meeting
Cooler of Cheer
- 2 Sportsmans Dinner
Harbor Beach results
- 3 Tournament results
- 4 Snakeheads

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P.O. Box 1255
Sterling Heights, Mi. 48311-1255



Celebrating 30 years

Member Meeting

The next Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. club meeting takes place on Tuesday October 26, at 7:30 P.M. in the hall at 6177 Chicago Rd. (east of Mound Rd., North of 13 Mile Rd.)-Warren, Michigan. Our meetings are always open to the public.

October will again include the **Fall Swap Meet**. Bring hunting or fishing equipment; except no guns please. This is a great way to get a stash of cash to spend on a new pair of waders or for the winter fishing shows.

Elections take place in December. There are 6 positions up for election for the Board of Directors. See Jason Adams if you are interested in running.

Be sure to see and get information on the new **club jackets** and windbreakers at the meeting.

Check out the newly re-designed web site. We think you'll find it easier to navigate.

COOLER OF CHEER!

The Annual Christmas Cooler of Cheer is in full swing. The support of all of our members and friends has really made this a fun event. The lucky winning ticket will be drawn at the annual Christmas meeting on Dec. 14.

The lucky winner will receive a **100-quart cooler full of cheer, a big assortment of party snacks and \$100 in cash**; a prize well worth the one buck investment.

A special drawing for sellers will take place at the October meeting where anyone turning in \$20.00 will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate of your choice to either Gander Mountain or Lakeside Fishing. If you haven't sold your tickets by then, you can mail your

money or turn it in at the meeting. Sell your tickets later and turn in the stubs at a later time. Anyone turning in \$20.00 by the November meeting will be in a drawing for the remaining \$25.00 gift certificate. Turn in your money early so you will be in both drawings.

Finally, the overall top ticket seller will win a \$150 gift certificate from Bass Pro. (This is a great boat opportunity, so you may want to talk to your crew and pool your results.) I have plenty of extra tickets for everyone who needs extra tickets. Please feel free to call me or see me at the meetings.

Chris Nytko (586) 786-

SIXTH ANNUAL SPORTSMEN'S DINNER

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will be hosting our Sixth Sportsmen's Dinner on Saturday, March 5, 2005. We will be at the same location as last year's highly acclaimed dinner, at the Salt River Golf Club Banquet Center at 33633 23 Mile Road, New Baltimore, 2.4 miles east of I94 (Exit #243). Mark your calendar!

Member Drawing
Howard York - We missed you at the September general meeting. Your name was drawn and sorry

to say you missed out on \$40.00. Next months drawing will be \$50.00. Hope to see you there

New DAS Web Site

The new DAS website is up and running. www.detroitsteelheaders.org Be sure to sign up for the chat room and participate in sharing information.

HARBOR BEACH TOURNEY - SEPTEMBER 11, 2004

The Detroit Area Steelheaders finished the 2004 Boat Trolling Tournament season on September 11th at Harbor Beach.

Prior to the tournament, the fishing reports were not very promising, with fish being scarce and small in size. On Friday, day before the tournament, few boats went out, hoping to find some kings, were disappointed catching mostly lake trout and only a few kings. The weather was windy, blowing 2-4 feet waves; however, later in the afternoon, the wind subsided and the lake started to look promising for Saturday fishing.

On Saturday morning at the 5:30 a.m. meeting, 17 skippers signed up for the tournament. By 6:30 a.m., the boats started leaving the

Harbor, going in all different directions, hoping to find some fish. With very little wind blowing, 1 to 2 foot waves, we knew we can proceed with the tournament because in the afternoon the wind was to pick up 15-25 mph with 4-foot waves. By first Fish Call, most boats reported having at least one fish in the cooler and some had as many as four. At 12:30 p.m., 2nd Fish Call, Crusader was leading the pack, with 7 fish in the cooler. Around that time, the wind picked up and waves were getting bigger. Before the tournament ended at 2:30 p.m., some boats were heading back to the Harbor because of rough seas.

At the weigh-in at 3:30 p.m., out of 17 boats fishing, 16 boats weighed in fish. The Big Fish Pool was won by Dean Meyers of Tip-n-Dipsy.

Chris Nytko Aquarius II

Ultimate Fishing Show

There is a new fishing show planned for January 13-16 at the Novi Expo Center. Watch for more details



SNAKEHEADS

The fish pulled out of Burnham Harbor was so strange looking that the angler who caught it posted its picture on the Internet.

Long and slender, with a grotesque mouth full of razor-sharp teeth, the creature at first glance looked like a mottled cousin of the northern pike, a fish commonly found in Lake Michigan. But when scientists around the country saw the fisherman's grainy image, they immediately suspected that one of the nation's most feared ecological invaders--the northern snakehead--had arrived in the Great Lakes.

On Thursday state biologists confirmed the discovery after picking up and examining the 18-inch predator, which had been packed in ice.

Biologists worry the fish could be the leading edge of a new form of biological pollution in the world's largest freshwater ecosystem, one that could rival existing threats such as sea lampreys and zebra mussels.

Native to China, Korea and Russia, the jut-mouthed northern snakehead is a voracious eater noted for its aggressive attempts to crowd out competitors. It feeds on small fish that make up the diet of salmon, perch and other fish already in the lake and will devour virtually anything else it find.

The snakehead also is different from most other fish in the United States. It breathes air in addition to extracting oxygen from water through its gills, a trait that enables the fish to survive out of water for days, and it can squirm short distances to another body of water.

In addition, it's hardy enough to

make it through winter, slowing its metabolism so it can survive beneath the ice.

"I hope that is the only one they find in Lake Michigan," said Walter R. Courtenay Jr., a snakehead expert at the U.S. Geological Survey. "If there is a male and female out there, anything can happen."

State officials think that snakeheads, which prefer shallow, grassy areas close to shore, aren't likely to compete with salmon swimming in deeper parts of the lake. But they are worried that it could devastate what is left of the dwindling population of yellow perch in Lake Michigan. Snakeheads also would compete viciously with other sport fish in the Great Lakes, such as bass and walleye. "I don't think any of our native fish can wipe out the snakehead," Courtenay said.

Made a splash 2 years ago

Snakeheads first swam into the national spotlight two years ago when an angler pulled one out of a pond behind a Dunkin' Donuts in Maryland. Biologists have since found what appear to be reproducing populations in the Potomac River in Virginia, a South Philadelphia lake that feeds into a tributary of the Delaware River and a pond in eastern Massachusetts.

Maryland officials were so concerned about the fish that they poisoned the entire pond, but that wouldn't work in the Great Lakes.

Once an obscure creature in Asian fish markets and exotic pet shops, the snakehead now is vying with another troublesome import--the Asian carp--as the biggest threat to native fish and the nation's multibillion dollar commercial and sport fishing industry.

Snakeheads are so aggressive that they thrash out of aquariums when agitated. They attract some pet owners who see them as the pit bulls of fish.

Federal officials are so concerned that they prohibit bringing snakeheads or their eggs into the country, carrying them across state lines or dumping them into waterways. Illinois and Chicago imposed snakehead bans two years ago in the wake of the Maryland incident.

"The problem is they can show up anywhere," said John Rogner, field supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The fish scooped out of Burnham Harbor with a net last weekend was estimated to be about 3 years old, making it mature enough to reproduce. Scientists won't know if the fish was a male or female until it thaws and they can dissect it.

Getting rid of snakeheads could be practically impossible if the fish has managed to spread, said Courtenay. Scientists say mature females can lay up to 75,000 eggs a year.

Sweep of harbor planned

State officials are scrambling to pull survey crews out of other lakes and rivers to scour the harbor for snakeheads. They plan to use boats equipped with electric cables that shock fish and bring them to the surface, but one state official cautioned that the technique generally only works to a depth of 3 feet and could miss some fish in the deep harbor.

"I'm hoping this is just a random fish dumped out of an aquarium by somebody who didn't know what to do with it," said Tom Trudeau, head of the Lake (Cont on Back Page)

Harbor Beach Official Trolling Results

17th Uh-Oh, Al Wiechert	0.00
16th The Office, Duane Dean	8.55
15th Just Once, Bill Nutting	20.75
14th Loki One, Dave Roehr	28.50
13th Blue Horizon, Paul Gjeldum	29.45
12th Sea Hag, Blaise Pewinski	30.00
11th Tyger, Ty Voigt	31.40
10th Vicki's Seacret, Bob Feisel	39.30
9th Reel Allure, Bill Stanley	39.50
8th No Limit, Dave Linder	39.90
7th Outta Line, Jason Adam	58.20
6th Trip-n-Dipsy, Dean Meyers	62.70
5th Aquarius II, Chris Nytko	69.05
4th Crusader, Mike Vigus	72.40
3rd Sloppy Joe, Joe Von Grabe	79.45
2nd Lady's Choice, Denis Harper	81.25
1st Reel Screamer, Freddie McIntyre	84.65

Big Fish Pool

10.40 King Trip-n-Dipsy, Dean Meyers \$85.00

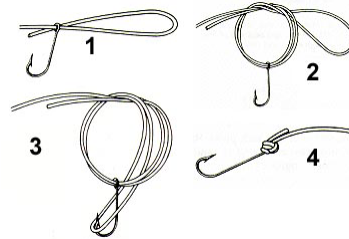
2004/2005 River & Winter Schedule

Doug Karakas has announced the initial dates for the 2004/ 2005 river tournaments. See Doug at the meetings for more details and watch Fishin' Tales for updates.

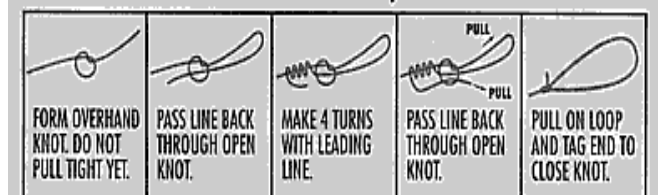
Oct. 23	Ludington Pier	Mark Bevens
Nov. 6	Manistee River	
Dec. 4	Ausable River & Pier	
Jan	St. Clair Ice Outing	
Feb	Higgins Lake Ice outing	
March	Manistee River	

River Knots

Palomar Knot – 100% knot that's easy to tie



Loop



September 2004

Michigan fisheries program at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. "The fear is seeing their young in the lake. If that happens, we're in trouble."

Acting quickly could make a difference, experts said.

Scientists warned years ago that another prolific invasive fish in the Great Lakes, the round goby, could spread into the Mississippi River system. But a multitude of federal and state agencies that oversee the lakes delayed installing an electronic barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship

Canal to shock the gobies and keep them in Lake Michigan.

By the time the barrier was finally turned on, gobies had already made it through the canal, which ties the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River.

Federal and state officials announced this week that after more than a year of false starts, construction will begin on a more powerful electric barrier in the canal. This time they are trying to keep Asian carp from swimming into the Great Lakes. The gluttonous carp ate their way

from Arkansas to Illinois in the last decade and are less than 50 miles from Lake Michigan.

Federal and state officials say the Asian carp and the snakehead could wreak havoc in the Great Lakes.

"They're going to affect the food chain from the bottom up," said Steve Early, a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. "You need to stop them before it's too late."



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