



Fishin' Tales II

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

Volume 4 Issue 2

February 2020



February Membership Meeting

- **When:**
 - Tuesday, February 25, 2020 7:30pm
- **Where:**
 - American Polish Cultural Center
NW corner, 15 Mile Rd. & Dequindre
- **Featured Presentation**
 - Walleye fishing St. Clair River
- **Other Happenings:**
 - Upcoming Angler of the Year Outings,
 - Tackle Raffles, 50/50 Raffle,
 - Attending Member Drawing,
- **DAS On the web-**
 - www.detroitsteelheaders.com Post to the message board and check out the entire site.

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SEA GRANT REPORT

The 2020 Sea Grant Workshop was attended by 70 people. DAS Longtime Members and Charter Captains Bob Mitchell, Dave Even and Doug Karakas were in attendance with me as well. The message from Sea Grant and all the presenters was very clear that they want our input in addressing the issues facing the Great Lakes. The topics had the usual cast that has been discussed in previous articles I have written on.

- The Predator Prey Model is working, and they are optimistic about the increase in Alewives. This will hopefully bring the stocking levels back, in 2021, to where they were before the cuts were made.
- The two primary methods for taking the pulse of the alewives in the lake, bottom trawls and acoustic were discussed. For the first time since I have been attending these meetings, they finally stated that the bottom trawls are not as effective as they use to be. The main factor being the water clarity. I thought this was common sense.
- The Water Levels are expected to break the record high set in 1986. As of this meeting, the Lake Superior Winter Low was 3.125 inches above the record of 1986. This water is coming to Lakes Huron and Michigan. If we have just an average year, this year, we will set a record. The high-water levels will create a more focus effort of enforcement on No Wake Zones so please take note.
- The Stomach Digestive Study is going well. It is helping the biologists see exactly what the fish are eating. It was not surprising that in Lake Michigan the primary diet was the alewife for all salmonids. Lake Huron, however had the more traditional results, specifically the steelhead. In Huron they had the bugs, while Michigan had primarily alewives. The Lake Trout are consuming the Gobies, but they are eating the alewives especially in Lake Michigan. This makes sense as the gobies are found among the rocks, which are native to most of the Lake Huron structure that is fished whereas the Lake Michigan structure is more along the clay. DAS help and support of this project is greatly appreciated.
- There is a new project that Sea Grant just received funding for to take OUR input as stewards of the fishery. They are putting together a "think tank" to take the public input on the issues facing the fishery and how to address them. I am hoping to take part in this and keep the club involved.
- The Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting is in April. Hopefully they will have all the data for 2019 compiled and it will be presented then. I will have an Article for April if possible, but for sure in the May Newsletter.

Dan O'Keefe, of Sea Grant, did mention the DAS and the continued support that our club gives. It is a good feeling when our club from the eastside of the state is mentioned in such high regard in the Great Lakes fishery and science community. This of course would not be possible without our Wild Game Dinner. I will be attending the dinner, so if anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me through email or at the wild game dinner!

Respectfully submitted,
Captain Mark Williams, Silver Addiction, DAS Life Member.



Detroit Area Steelheaders



NEW MEMBERS

Gordon Arnold
 Fred Boonstra
 Scott Campbell
 Joe Delisi
 Dave Ellis
 Steven Jensen
 Mark Piasecki
 Mike Tate
 Glenn Therrien

DUE THIS MONTH

RABIH ABDALLAH
 LOUIE BALAZE
 FRED CHARTIER
 DREW HEADLEY
 DENNIS KELLEY
 MARK PARADISE

1 MONTH PASS

MATT SLAMKA
 NICK JONES

2 MONTHS PASS

TRACY CLARMONT
 ERIC HARTMAN
 RONALD HARTMAN II
 PHIL LEESE
 WINN WOLF



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAN CHISHOLM
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 Website, Boat Trolling
 586-530-9171

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 586-214-8812

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 Secretary
 517-449-3036

TOM GORGUZE
 Speakers & Education;
 Hats, Shirts & Jackets, Publicity
 Newsletter Publisher
 248-343-8397

BLAISE PEWINSKI
 Wild Game Dinner, AOTY
 248-890-4517

BOB FEISEL
 Boat Trolling, Donations &
 Appropriations
 248-765-2504

KEN CIONE
 Membership, Speakers
 248-227-1601

STEVE PROUT
 Membership
 810 923-1670

CARL VENTIMIGLIA
 Wild Game Dinner
 586-615-7459

JIM ZANKE
 Special People, Shows, PA System
 586-489-2041

TOM (TNT) THIEDA
 River, Surf & Pier
 586 206-5902

JEFF BUSTOS
 Raffles
 734 968-6143

Assistants

STEVE HAMITON
 Club Historian

LINDA BANBURY
 Special People

MARY KARAKAS
 Special People

DON MIKROS
 Newsletter/Printer

PAUL GJELDUM
 Awards

CHRIS NYTKO
 Facebook

Anna Kulpa
 Photography

Every Member Raffles Will Get a New Look in 2020

Starting this month, our every member raffles will have a fresh new look. Our 'Every Member' drawing is one of the benefits of being a DAS member. The changes are designed to reward members who attend meetings by increase their odds of winning. To improve your chances of winning, each month we will award one random attendee with a \$50 cash prize.

How it works:

Members will be required to sign in before meetings and their names will be placed in that months random drawing. The drawing is only open to members and a 50\$ prize is guaranteed with a winner at each meeting. In order to be eligible to win, membership dues must be current, and you must be present to win. The winner will be drawn at the end of DAS membership meeting.



FISH ON
 TNT lands the catch of a lifetime
 Congratulations Tom and GERALYN.
 February 14, 2020

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS, INC.

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

SHOW SPECIAL FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY \$20 Membership Application

- New Member - \$35 Yearly
- Senior (65 & over)- \$20 Yearly
- Junior (under 16) - \$20 Yearly (Electronic Newsletter)
- Special Event Rate (New Members Only)- \$20
- Renewal - \$35 Yearly
- Address Change only

Amt. Paid \$ _____

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

DAS OUTING UPDATE

Unseasonably warm weather has played havoc with our AOTY ice outings. The Metro Park 'Cold as Ice' event originally scheduled in January, was first postponed until February 8, then eventually cancelled. The Saginaw Bay event on February 15, was also cancelled due to sketchy ice conditions. Our popular Mitchell's Bay event was also postponed then recently, we made the decision to move it to Higgins Lake. Higgins Lake is big and deep. Traditionally it takes a little longer to freeze, but the latest reports are very good. We'll be fishing for Lake Trout, but Higgins is also popular with anglers targeting Smelt, Cisco, and Perch.

Higgins Lake Outing Details

What: Best Three Lake Trout (by total weight)

Where: Higgins Lake West DNR Ramp on N Harrison Rd. (Old US-27)

When: Sat. Feb. 22 - Captains Meeting: 6:00 am / Weigh In: 1:00 pm

How: Bring machines at your own risk! This has been a very unpredictable year for ice fishing and I will never say "the ice is safe" for machines. Use your machine at your own risk.

Cost: \$5 outing registration required. Optional \$5 big fish pool. Both paid at the ramp before going out. Big fish pool will be paid by weight with length being the tie breaker.

Contact: Dan Chisholm 586 530 9171 or Tom Thieda 586 206 5902 as soon as you can so we can plan for the shore lunch.

Additional Details: Amvets Higgins Lake Lodge and Cabins is close by and a decent place to stay. 106 Thorpe Ave. 989 821 6574.

Lake Trout like Blue minnows if you can get them.

Local Bait Shops: Lymans 6560 W Houghton Lake Rd 989 422 3231
H&H Sporting Goods 8979 W Houghton Lake Rd 989 366 0126

Ken Clark, February Guest Speaker



Ken Clark owns Fishmas Charters in Whitehall, Michigan. He has been a charter captain for over 20 years, and a tournament angler longer than that. As a winning Walleye angler, he trailers his boat to over 20 different Lakes and Rivers in the region. His experience fishing a variety of lakes has helped him hone numerous presentations, and may dictate using multiple techniques each week. He is a frequent presenter at shows, and says he goes through 12,000-15,000 washed crawlers in a summer. Okuma, Northland, Church Tackle and Traxstech are some of his key sponsors. He is a frequent presenter for Fishing Clubs, the Michigan DNR, TV, Radio and other media. Ken's personality and patience have helped make him a sought-after Captain. Ken is also a college professor at Ferris State University, and member of the numerous organizations.

DAS Recruits Members at Ultimate Fishing Show

The Ultimate Fishing Show in Novi marks the unofficial start of the Detroit Area Steelheaders fishing season. This year's show was the second weekend in January. After being off the water for nearly three months, the timing of the show is perfect. It's an all species show with something for everyone. For most attendees, it's an opportunity to get together with other fishermen and make plans for warm weather activities. Our Show Committee chairman, Jim Zanke organizes and staff's the DAS booth. Teams of two members rotate three-hour shifts over the course of the event in an effort to recruit new members. This year we welcome the 11 new members who visited our booth and joined at the show. If Anyone is interested in helping at a future show, can reach out to Jim and he'll get you on our volunteer list. Showspan is the promoter of the show and they generously let non-profit cubs like ours exhibit for free.



In case you missed the January Meeting....

Our featured guest speaker at the January Membership meeting was Michigan DNR Fisheries unit Supervisor Jeff Jolly (pictured center). Visiting with Jeff were his newly hired Fisheries Biologists Adaline and Jason. Jeff and his team will be responsible for the Lake Huron fishery. Jeff comes to DNR from the west coast where he worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. His biologists, Adaline and Jason team are just getting their feet on the ground with the DNR having recently filled vacancies created by retirements. They discussed some of the dynamics and challenges of lower Lake Huron since the collapse of salmon.



We were also treated to a bonus presentation by our own ice fisherman extraordinaire, and repeating Angler of the Year, Gaspere Aragona. Gaspere shared the secrets of catching jumbo perch and some of tactics he employs in pursuit of the coveted AOTY title. Thanks to our guests from the DNR and Gaspere for his tell all fishing tips!

Outdoorama February 27 - March 1, 2020

The Outdoorama Michigan Sportsmen Show is just around the corner. The show is at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. Whether it's hunting, fishing, boating, canoeing, hiking, mushroom hunting or bird watching, this is a show for outdoor enthusiasts. Jim Zanke will have a limited number of discount tickets available at the February membership meeting. See Jim or pick one up from the membership table if you'd like one of the discount tickets. The Outfitter's Expo area, along with major feature attractions like Big Buck Night and the Trout Pond, provide a great place to book the trip of a lifetime or entertain the family. In addition, with a huge display of boats, docks and lifts, and marine accessories, this show is a good place to shop for new boats and accessories before spring. Outdoorama is a must-see for everyone who loves the outdoors.



We regret to announce that the Dan Keating Salmon School seminar scheduled for April 4, 2020 at the American Polish Cultural Center has been cancelled. It was discovered that a major Walleye tournament will be taking place on the Detroit River at the same time. It was feared that participation would be adversely affected with that taking place. Thanks for your interest and we may revisit this to happen at another time.....stay tuned.

Check Out Our 2nd Facebook Page

If your looking for an interactive social media site where you can post fishing reports, pictures, and the like, you might want to check out the **Detroit Area Steelheaders: Official Group Page**. The Group Page is intended for anyone who loves to fish. There are already over 100 members and it's growing fast. It's open to DAS member as well as anyone who enjoys fishing! You'll need to join the page in order to post. Members are encouraged to share information and discuss any fishing related topic. Thanks to Steve Prout for setting up the page, and administrators; Anna Kulpa, Carl Ventimiglia, and Anthony Lewis.

Detroit Area Steelheaders
P.O. Box 1255
Sterling Hgts, MI 48311-1255

Place Stamp
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MEETING NOTICE—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE GREAT
LAKES SPORTFISHERY SINCE 1974

Membership Expires:



2020 SOTY Tournament Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Port Captain</u>
May 2, 2020	St. Joseph	Brett Mauk
May16/17, 2020	Grand Haven	Jim Zanke
May 30, 2020	Manistee	Bob Paradise
June 13, 2020	Harbor Beach	Joe von Grabe
July 11, 2020	Erieau	Dan Chisholm
August 1, 2020	Ludington	Bob Jones
August 22, 2020	Manistee	Tom Gorguze

2020 AOTY Outing Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Event</u>
Feb 22	Higgins Lake	D Chisholm	Lake Trout
March 28	Manistee River	A Kulpa/M Wyrick	Metro West fish-off
April 18	AuSable River	G Gross	Steelhead
April 25	St. Clair River	T Gorguze	Walleye
June 20	St. Clair River	E Paehlig/R Pinskey	Walleye
Sep 12	Monroe	G Aragona	Perch
Sep 26,	Manistee	J Anderson/L Gamblin	Steelhead/Salmon
Oct 31	Ludington	T Theida	Big Tom
Nov 7	Manistee	T Theida	Lakeshore Motel
Dec 12	Caseville	B Pewinski	Lake Trout

Upcoming 2020 DAS Key Dates

Sat Feb 22, 2020	Higgins Lake Ice Outing
Tue Feb 25, 2020	General Membership Meeting
Tue Mar 17, 2020	BOD Meeting
Sat Mar 28, 2020	Manistee Metro West Outing
Tue Mar 31, 2020	General Membership Meeting

2020 January Membership Meeting Facts

<u>Attendance:</u>	52
<u>Featured Guest:</u>	Jeff Jolly MDNR
<u>Featured Presentations:</u>	Lake Huron Update
<u>50/50 Raffle Winner:</u>	\$122
<u>Every Member Draw:</u>	Dan Okeefe (Not Present)