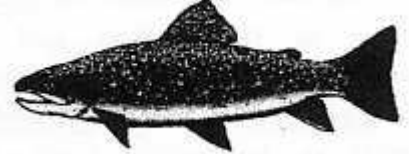


# DOWNRIGGER



## Presidents Message

The month of March is now upon us. If you're like most people, you probably haven't looked at your boat or fishing equipment since you stored it away last fall. Although you can't get out on the water and troll for those big ones right now, at least you can chase the winter blahs away by starting to go through your gear and get it ready for the new season. This will also help with making room for all the new stuff you will inevitably purchase at the spring fishing shows. I have gotten into the habit of keeping a log book of all the things that need repair or projects I want to complete before I launch the boat in the spring. Right now, one of the two boat batteries, purchased new last spring at BOATERS WORLD (Tom Ott are you listening?), won't hold a charge and the canvas is in the basement waiting for the opportune time when the wife is out of the house to run it through the washer. I am also having my boat's carburetor rebuilt by a friend who is into hot rods, so its questionable how the carburetor will turn out. Spring will be here before you know it, just don't wait to the last minute to get everything ready.

Our February membership meeting at Gino's Santia Hall turned out well. Lance Valentine gave a very good presentation on walleye fishing. Lance's presentation was only to take about an hour, but he was gracious enough to stay for an extra 40 minutes or so taking questions from the members. Lance doesn't get paid for driving out to talk to us, but at the close of his presentation, we awarded Lance a framed honorary membership to OCSA, which he greatly appreciated.

Also at the February meeting, we awarded the prizes to the winners of the OCSA lure board raffle held at the Novi Expo fishing show in January. Winners are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place-	Larry Eastman	85 lures
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place-	Fred Chartier	65 lures
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place-	Rick Ricardi	45 lures
4 <sup>th</sup> Place-	Bill Anglebrandt	35 lures
5 <sup>th</sup> Place-	Meghan Schult	20 lures

Captain Ron Levitan was our guest speaker for the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ron runs R & D Sportfishing Charters and he gave us a presentation on walleye fishing. We have also lined up Captain Steve Dennis as our April

20<sup>th</sup> speaker. Steve is also a charter boat captain who operates Fishbone Charters out of Manistee. Both March and April membership meetings will be back at the Drayton Plains Nature Center.

The people at Gander Mountain's Waterford store informed me the other day that they will no longer be honoring the coupons we have been publishing in the Downrigger. However, Gander Mountain will be replacing the coupon with a monthly discount card that gives you \$10 off a \$50 purchase. The cards will only be valid for the month they are issued. One of the OCSA Board members will need to order the discount cards in advance and distribute the cards at the membership meeting. It doesn't sound like this new discount card will be very convenient, but we'll give it a try to see how it works out.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Glenn Appel  
OCSA President

### **Up Coming Events:**

Mr. Steve Dennis Captain of Fishbone Charters will be the guest speaker at the April 20<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. He will be speaking on salmon fishing.

The annual Tippy Dam spring steelhead outing will again be hosted by Bill Anglebrandt April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Contact Bill if you have any questions.

### **OCSA Annual Picnic**

This year's picnic will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Drayton Plains Nature Center. It will be hosted by Marti Newstead and Caroline Burtch. If anyone is interested in helping out with this please contact Caroline

## **Tournament Insight**

### **2005 Tournament Schedule**

Date	Port	Chairperson	Contact Info
April 9/10	Tippy Dam	Bill Anglebrandt	248-391-0670
April 30/May 1	Arcadia/Frankfort	Pat & Walt VanConant	248-693-4389
May 14	Pontiac Lake	Steve Loehr	248-685-3933
June 18	Lake Erie	Bill Purves/ Bill Anglebrandt	248-625-3617 (Bill P.)
July 9/10	Lake Erie	Geoff White	248-437-7387
August 13/14	Arcadia/Frankfort	Steve Bruford/Greg Elliot	248-363-4688 (Steve) 248-328-0097 (Greg)
August 20/21	Arcadia	Walt VanConant/Larry Eastman	248-693-4389 (Walt) 231-325-2267 (Larry)
September 24/25	Lake Erie	Bob Schulz	248-471-7844

### Fishing Plaques and Tags for 2004

The Board has ruled that all new members and members who have never received a plaque and have won 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Tournaments will receive one. Guests can receive a trophy for the club cost (\$15.00) Captains please contact me if you want a plaque for one of your guests who have won a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Tags to place on plaques with date, fish and weight will be given to all members and guests who have won 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Any member who needs a new plaque for the tags and who does not come under the specifications listed above can buy them at Club cost (\$15.00) All of The new plaques are 6"X 8" and will have the Club Logo and the fisherpersons name on them. Please contact Mike Odle at 248-673-3759 if you have any questions.

### Angler's Articles:

**Here is a picture of the new Saskatchewan record walleye caught at Tobin Lake through the ice this year...18 lbs 3 oz. WOW!!! I hope that everyone could have that kind of success through the ice!**



### DNR ups steelhead allotment

By BOB GROSS

Of The Daily Oakland Press Jan 30, 2005

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources plans to stock 10,000 more steelhead this spring in the Clinton River than usual. The Clinton's allotment of the prized game fish will be 25,000, up from 15,000. "It's just so exciting," said Dan Keifer, development director for the Clinton River Watershed Council. "It's such good news for the interest of both the river and river users like the fishermen. "Obviously, it's an indication that the river can support more fish and more fishing." In an e-mail posted to the watershed council's listserve, the DNR cites fishing pressure on the Clinton as the reason for the increase. Anglers regularly line the banks at Yates Dam in Rochester Hills during March, April and May to catch the silvery trout as they head upstream from Lake St. Clair. "The Clinton River just gets a lot of fishing on it," said Keifer. "This is the DNR responding to the interest of fishermen using the Clinton to put more fish where the fishermen are." The DNR was able to find the extra fish for the Clinton by reducing allotments for the Belle River and Mill Creek in St. Clair County to 7,000 and 10,000 fish, respectively. Those two streams don't get the fishing pressure, according to the DNR, that the Clinton does. A DNR survey several years ago found that anglers spent about 21,000 hours fishing during the six-week spring steelhead run, primarily in the stretch of the river from Yates Dam to Ryan Road. Steelhead are lake-run rainbow trout. They're either born in a river or released there, spend about two to three years in the open water, then return to spawn. Like Pacific salmon, steelhead are natives of the Northwest that were transplanted into the Great Lakes. Unlike salmon, however, they can spawn more than once. While they may reach 20 pounds in weight, the average adult size is 9 to 10 pounds. In 2003, the DNR released 30,000 steelhead smolts - yearling fish - into the Clinton. Those fish should start returning to spawn this spring. "We're very pleased, certainly for the fishing and the fishermen and the recreation," said Keifer, "but we're also pleased because this is sort of a good canary in the coal mine evidence to the general public that this river is not polluted. Heck, it supports fish; heck, it supports trout; heck, it supports even more.

## Biologist seek fishing data

By **BOB GROSS**

Of The Daily Oakland Press Feb 2, 2005

Anglers sometimes stretch the truth just the tiniest bit. State fisheries biologists are, however, hoping that anglers on the Clinton River will be forthcoming with good data this spring. "We plan on doing a creel survey during March and April," said Jim Francis, fisheries biologist at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources District Office in Livonia. "That's the primary fishery. We're going to do at least the main access sites." The DNR uses creel surveys and other statistical tools to help make fisheries management decisions such as the recent one that reduced the number of steelhead destined for the Belle River and Mill Creek in St. Clair County and added them to the Clinton's stocking allotment. That decision, which increased the number of steelhead being stocked in the Clinton River this spring from 15,000 to 25,000, was based on previous creel surveys that showed more hours spent fishing on the Clinton than the two other streams. The approach is low-tech and economical, Francis said. Volunteers will focus on the major steelhead fishing areas at Yates Dam in Rochester Hills and Ryan Road in Shelby Township. "We count the number of vehicles that are out there," Francis said. "We leave a postcard on the windshield. "We ask the anglers to fill that out and mail that back to us. From that we can calculate the number of people that are fishing, and also get an idea of the success rate." Two years ago, the DNR planted 30,000 steelhead smolt in the Clinton. Those fish should start returning in March after growing to adulthood in the big lakes. "A lot of people have it marked on their calendar and are anticipating that this year there will be even more fish in the river than we have seen in the past," Francis said.

## No new zebra mussel reports filed

By **BOB GROSS**

Of The Daily Oakland Press Feb 2, 2005

Something unusual happened with zebra mussels in Oakland County last year. No one reported any additional infestations in county lakes. "There are no additional Oakland (lakes)," said Mike Klepinger, Michigan Sea Grant Extension specialist. "I don't know why. I can't explain it." There are now 204 lakes confirmed in Michigan as being infested by the zebra mussel, 12 more than last year, according to the Sea Grant. Oakland County had 45 infested lakes through 2004. While calling it good news for Oakland County, Carol Swinehart of Michigan Sea Grant cautioned against being lulled into thinking the zebra mussel problem is starting to slow down. "I think what we always have to recognize is that we are highly dependent in this work on reports from interested citizens," she said. "It may be that several more lakes had been infested last year." "Just because we have confirmation on these 204 lakes doesn't mean that we don't have many others." People who suspect zebra mussels in a lake or other body of water should first go to the Sea Grant Web site, said Swinehart, at [www.miseagrant.umich.edu/ans/lakes.html](http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/ans/lakes.html). "If they go check the database they may find their lake on it," she said. "If they don't, we are providing names and phone numbers of the nearest Sea Grant agent." The nearest Sea Grant office is in Clinton Township at (586) 469-7431. Sea Grant will need physical evidence of the mussels such as specimens preserved in alcohol, Swinehartsaid. It has been 17 years since zebra mussels were first discovered locally in Lake St. Clair. Natives of Eurasia, they likely hitched a ride to the Great Lakes in the ballast water of ocean-going vessels.

## Recipe Corner:

I am always looking for some good recipes to publish in the *Downrigger*. If you have a good one send it to me via e-mail at [michiganbasser@yahoo.com](mailto:michiganbasser@yahoo.com)

## Editor's Note:

The steelhead and trout seasons are almost here and I hope that you are ready. I ask that if any of you have submissions for the *Downrigger* please send them to me via e-mail at [michiganbasser@yahoo.com](mailto:michiganbasser@yahoo.com) I will be working in Microsoft word so if your submission could be in that format it would be a great help. I wish everyone a very merry holiday season.

Scott Lewis

## OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION 2005 OFFICERS

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Vice President	William Purves	(248) 625-3617	<a href="mailto:wpurves@pobox.com">wpurves@pobox.com</a>
Treasurer	Sue Odle	(248) 673-3759	<a href="mailto:mikeo.5@juno.com">mikeo.5@juno.com</a>
Recording Secretary	Margaret Purves	(248) 625-3617	<a href="mailto:wpurves@pobox.com">wpurves@pobox.com</a>

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Sunshine Man/M.U.C.C. Chairperson	Glenn Uhl	(248) 682-4079	<a href="mailto:uhlw@worldnet.att.net">uhlw@worldnet.att.net</a>
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Director	Tom Ott	(248) 879-0244	<a href="mailto:martom2@worldnet.att.net">martom2@worldnet.att.net</a>
Director	Walt VanConant	(248) 693-4389	<a href="mailto:vanconantw@mindspring.com">vanconantw@mindspring.com</a>
Director	Geoff White	(248) 437-7387	
Director	Joe Zikewich	(248) 693-6348	<a href="mailto:peacoatmemorial@msn.com">peacoatmemorial@msn.com</a>

## SAVE SOME MONEY!!

Just a reminder!!!!!! OCSA members can get BOAT U.S. membership for half price. BOAT U.S. regular price is \$19.00. OCSA members can pay \$9.50 by submitting our group number **GA 81183B** on the Boat U.S. application with your check. Currently, 21 of our members are taking advantage of this opportunity. Feel free to enroll for this benefit.

Pat Van Conant  
Membership Chairperson



165 COUNTRYSIDE LN  
HIGHLAND MI 48357

Spring is here!

## Calendar or Upcoming events

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| April 9 & 10           | Steelhead outing. Contact Bill Anglebrandt for more information.     |
| April 13 <sup>th</sup> | Board Meeting at DPNC 7:00 pm  |
| April 20 <sup>th</sup> | Membership Meeting at DPNC Guest speaker Steve Dennis Salmon fishing |
| April 30 <sup>th</sup> | Arcadia tournament. Contact the VanConants for more information      |
| May 1 <sup>st</sup>    | Arcadia tournament   |
| May 11 <sup>th</sup>   | Board Meeting at DPNC 7:00 pm  |
| May 14 <sup>th</sup>   | Pontiac Lake Tournament Contact Steve Loehr for more information     |
| May 18 <sup>th</sup>   | Membership Meeting DPNS 7:30 pm                                      |