

NEWSLETTER

Thursday, November 2 Meeting

Location Upstairs at the Legion Hall, Westboro Branch - 391

Richmond Road, between

Churchill and Roosevelt Avenues.

Parking is on neighbouring streets.

Start time – 7 pm.

Coming Club Fishes

NONE!

NADA!

RIEN DU TOUT!

NO MO'

NOVEMBER MEETING Legion

THURSDAY, November 1 – 7 pm

1. Club Fish Results

2. Miscellaneous

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Miscellaneous Mutterings

Success! The days of my truck acting “squirrely” are over!

After musing about this in the October Newsletter, Sandy Grant emailed me to say that he had heard that it could be a problem with the gas filler cap. I’d heard that and suggested it to Walkley before, but you know how it is — didn’t show up on the computer (Sigh)...

Anyway, I took it back in and insisted that they check it out. No prizes for guessing what happened. Turns out that the valve in the filler pipe wasn’t closing properly and that a return line to the gas tank was corroded and leaking. “Re and Re”.

Now when you open the gas cap, there is a distinct, soft “whoosh” of pressure being released.

Less pressure on me and less on Walkley, now that the trouble light stays off.

The Service Rep that I was working with, Brian Dawes, was unfailingly polite and helpful. The Service Manager was also great about it all.

Worth knowing that there are still some good dealers out there.

Club Fishes Results**Saturday, October 7 – Reeve Craig:**

Jim and Ian Midgley arrived at 11:00 AM and fished to about 5 PM. Winds were calm to light and temperature about 15C and SUNNY. TOUGH fishing. We saw few fish and caught a lot less. The water was full of bass boats and cruisers. JIM GOT SKUNKED.

Allison got a 24" pike while her guide, Greg, got a 12" and a 13" largemouth. No word on Mark Patry and Bob Stoddard. I was closing my cottage.

Saturday, October 14 – Wendover

Dave and Peter Mingie and Jim arrived after 11 AM and left before 4 PM. Winds of 20KM from the south and some rain were an issue. The weather appeared to be better in Ottawa. They tried fishing a flat before going to the ramp at 1PM for Dave's delicious chili. No club members were there (only 3 boat trailers). They trolled down river well past the Nation River and also cast baits. They explored further down river and found well over 100 feet of water. They got SKUNKED.

Saturday, October 21 – Rockland

The weather was the pits! No one went out, as far as I know. Certainly not yours truly.

Saturday, October 28 – Rockland

Rain, snow and blow — no go!

Planer Boards and Releases

There are plans for making your own dual planer board systems. Just the thing for those wary crappies in the spring, I'll bet! Look for the plans at www.quintefishing.com/make_your_own_dual_planer_boards.htm

If you're going cheap on the planer boards, then you might be interested in inexpensive ("cheap") releases. These are made from shower curtain holders, plastic clothespins, and rubber bands.

Hook the holder through the plastic clothespin hole. Connect the holder to the board line. Hook a rubber band around the line and connect to the clothespin. Run down the board line. If the jaws of the clothespin are too weak, just wrap another rubber band around it 3 or 4 times. Make sure the rubber bands are all the same size. Replace the rubber band after every fish.

Catch Of The Day:

This is from www.baytoday.ca Tuesday, October 10, 2006, in an article by Kate Adams.

Kevin Davison of Cambridge came up to North Bay for a weekend of Muskie fishing and a good holiday visit with brother, Gary. He never dreamed he would land a monster.

Minutes into their outing on Lake Nipissing Friday, the brothers were hauling in the 58 inch fish, which has caught the attention of Canadian sport fishing magazines.

Officials are viewing photos of the catch to verify authenticity and weight, but it looks like this could be a record holder.

Brother Gary says finding the 40-year-old fish was a thrill of a lifetime that won't be rivalled soon. He also said he is proud of his brother because instead of keeping the fish to mount on his wall, it was a live release.

"I've caught several Muskie in the past, but this is definitely a catch of a lifetime and the envy of all," says Gary Davison.



Good Advice: – courtesy of Rick Newton

Two Newfies are sittin' in a boat, fishin' and suckin' down beer.

All of a sudden, Bill says, "I think I'm going to divorce my wife. She hasn't spoken to me in over six months."

All is quiet for a few minutes.

Earl sips his beer and replies slowly, " You better think it over – women like that are hard to find."

Advice from an MNR Biologist

I've copied this article from the 2006 Newsletter of the Loughborough Lake Association. They have an innovative program of voluntary bass sanctuaries on local lakes around Kingston that they've developed with the Storrington Guides Association, resort owners, and the local MNR at Napanee. Is there something here for the Kemptville MNR to think about, or perhaps even Peterborough?

My Mouth Hurts and My Kids Are Gone: The Dilemma of a Nesting Bass

By: Kevin Esseltine

Under a drooping cedar, protected by a sparse scattering of granite boulders, a male bass stands watch. By paternal instinct, the bass relentlessly patrols his little stretch of shoreline, feverishly chasing anything away from the beat. Suddenly, a white, flashing object plunks through the waters surface, seemingly from the cedar above. The bass, blinded by his own protective instincts, rushes the intruder. In a single strike the bass is swept from his territory. Immediately, swarms of hungry sunfish converge in a feeding frenzy, stirring the pebble substrate. Seconds later, after the water clears, all that remains between the granite boulders is a shallow and empty depression. The bass angrily appears again, searching for the nest he was guarding a mere thirty-seconds before, the brood of eggs now devoured. Exhausted from fighting a pre-season angler, the bass swims silently away, his chance for successful reproduction lost for this spring.

Every year from May to the end of June, male bass construct tiny nests along the shores of lakes, usually beside large boulders or fallen trees that offer protection. The male bass courts a female to his nest where they spawn together, and the fertilized eggs are deposited for the male to "baby sit" for about a month. During this time, the male bass becomes intensely aggressive, ruthlessly protecting his eggs from would-be predators, and thus making the bass extremely easy to catch. This behaviour continues until the eggs hatch and the fry are able to swim off independently. In Ontario, the bass fishing season opens on the last Saturday in June to protect nesting bass and their young during this vulnerable time of year. But every year, many anglers accidentally (and some intentionally) continue to catch bass from spawning sites.

In general, there are a number of biological issues associated with preseason bass angling. In most other times of the year, bass are ideal candidates as a catch-and-release target species. Bass are extremely fun fish to catch, and because they can normally survive the stresses of angling and resume their usual lives. This all changes, however, in the spring when bass are nesting. Briefly, here are some of the biological problems of catch-and-release during the spawning period:

- Nesting bass recover more slowly after angling because their physiological condition is reduced at this time. When exhausted after angling, the male bass is less capable to guard the nest from predators.
- When the bass is removed from the nest, sunfish, rock bass, and perch feed on the bass' eggs and/or fry. If enough eggs are eaten while the bass is being caught and released, the bass may completely abandon the nest once he returns. The loss of this nest reduces the number of young that survive that spring and limits the genetic diversity of the bass population.

Fortunately, fisheries scientists have actually conducted studies to confirm these negative impacts of pre-season bass angling and develop strategies to help minimize these effects. Here are a few things that can help:

- If a bass is "accidentally" angled in the pre-season period, the bass should be released as quickly as possible to preserve the fish's energy. This will enable the bass to quickly return to guard the nest, recover faster and better protect his eggs and/or fry after being angled.
- Recent studies have shown 'voluntary bass nesting sanctuaries' to be effective in protecting bass from angling only if the sanctuary is closely

monitored. If not, the sanctuary may actually attract unscrupulous anglers to nesting bass like a neon sign! Please help monitor these 'voluntary sanctuaries' on your lakes.

Pre-season bass angling is another unnecessary and avoidable stress that contributes to the decline of bass populations. Because it is impossible to monitor all lakes and bass spawning sites, the responsibility rests on each individual angler consider the biological impacts of pre-season angling, educate others, and practice good conservation ethics. If everyone can do their small part, we and our future generations can enjoy quality bass populations now and into the future.

Editors Note: Kevin Esseltine is currently a Fisheries Biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources and MSc student at Queen's University. Kevin can be contacted at the Kingston MNR at (613) 531-5719 or e-mail: kevin.esseltine@mnr.gov.on.ca for copies of additional reading material.

A Close Call!

I was up closing up my cottage last week decided to go for a little fish around 5 in the evening. The bass were biting, around 8 o'clock that evening I tried to land a fish stood up and kneeled on the side of the boat next thing I know I am in the water, boat is drifting away in the dark in 80 ft of water, temp 51. I managed to get back to the boat and grab the lower end of the motor, climbed up and in. I looked around for lights on shore no one else was up.

Could not start the motor at first, shaking so bad. Got back to the cottage, stripped down and put on the heat, had a big pot of hot soup, could not stop shivering for about 3 hours.

Early this year we were in Costco and they had life jackets on sale, so I bought one. My wife questioned the purchase saying you don't wear one anyway. I told her I had seen reports of people my age 50+ were falling out of boats and drowning. The bodies sometimes were not found for days. So I said at least they will find me floating as a joke. This summer I got into a habit of wearing the life jacket. It has saved my life.

I have been fishing in all kinds of weather for over 45 years; consider myself a very boat safe person. It took this experience to wake me up. I did two things wrong here, went fishing alone at this time of year and stood up when there was no need to. If I can say anything WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET. They do save lives. It saved mine.

Doug Smith – The Happy Hooker