



# The Outrigger



Volume 44, Issue 5

www.kenoshasportfishing.com

May 2015

**Special points of interest:**

- Harbor ice is out and fish are in, get the boat in the water and go fishing!
- Kids Fish N' Fun, Saturday May 9th @ Anderson Pond, 9:00 A.M. until Noon
- KSFCA First Monthly Club Tourney of 2015, on Sunday May 17th.
- Jacks' Fly Tying Class suspended for summer months. Will start again in the 3rd week of October.
- If you know a business owner or individual that may be interested in becoming a supporting member of the KSFCA please contact Jon FioRito at 262-220-4606 for additional information and details.

## 25,000+ Chinook Salmon Arrived On April 21st



Hatchery truck backing to the pond



First fish the pond has seen in 3 yrs



Backing the truck to another section



Preparing to release some more...



Chinook Salmon into Section Three



Ready to return to the hatchery

Photos By: Dick Kessler

(Con't on page 4)

## Wisconsin's Walleye Waters

**WE'VE GOT LOTS OF GREAT PLACES TO TANGLE WITH WALLEYES IN OUR STATE, BUT FOR OPENING-DAY ACTION, THESE WATERS ARE HARD TO BEAT!**

By Jeff Samsel (Wisconsin Sportsman)

APRIL SNOW showers may not bring many flowers or any great suggestion of spring in our state. Still, there's something about turning another calendar page that makes legitimate spring fishing seem somewhat closer. Fortunately, it doesn't matter what the thermometer says. Good walleye action can already be found, and it will only get better as spring truly begins settling across the state.

Although most of Wisconsin's inland waters don't open to walleye fishing until the first Saturday in May, quite a few waterways open early or remain open throughout the year, and it just so happens that those rivers and lakes include some of the best walleye waters in Wisconsin. Here, we'll look at a selection of those waters, emphasizing early opportunities.

### GREEN BAY

Walleyes are plentiful and grow to big sizes in the Bay of Green Bay, and excellent opportunities begin early in the year in bay tributaries. The fishery is vast and diverse, and so success in different areas and at different times calls for varying strategies. Bret Alexander Sport Fishing has been guiding on the bay for more than 25 years. Time has taught him when he needs to be where, and which approaches to use.

"It's nice having so much variety," Alexander said. "I can talk to clients about what they want to do, and depending on whether they'd rather catch fish all day long or not catch as many but have them all be big, I can pick the best plan." Wisconsin's first open-water action of the year often occurs in the lower Fox River, beginning around the third week of March in an average year, and anglers flock to the lower Fox to get in on the

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Photo by: Dick Kessler

## “Jacks’ Fly Tying Corner”

Article by: Jack Springer

This column by Jack will continue when the fly tying session starts again, towards the end of October. So, until then have a great summer and enjoy the wonders of our lakes, rivers and streams, wherever they are, and enjoy them!

Wisconsin’s Walleye Waters (con’t from pg 1)

early action. A variety of tactics, including day-fishing with jig and plastics and night-fishing with big minnow-style lures will produce good action and some walleyes during that time.

Alexander typically leaves the Fox alone and waits a couple of weeks longer to begin his open water walleye fishing simply because he doesn't like fishing in a crowd. He often begins his spring walleye fishing in the Peshtigo River, which is located about halfway up the bay on the west side and lacks the Fox River’s crowds.

“It’s one of the coolest times to fish because you have about 7 miles of wild river, and it’s all fishing with plastics,” said Alexander. He normally finds fast action in the Peshtigo for a couple of weeks before most of those fish move to just outside the mouth of the river and he begins looking for them in the bay itself. He also likes that area because he can easily travel a little farther north to fish the Menominee River, which forms part of the border between Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. He fishes the mouth of the river, and while the numbers aren’t as high as on the Peshtigo, virtually everything he catches is big.

Moving to the Sturgeon Bay side, Alexander also catches some of his biggest walleyes of the year from the Sturgeon Bay channel early in the season by dragging big live baits along the bottom and casting 4 1/2-inch Berkley Rib Shad swimbaits on 1/4-ounce jigheads and “rip jigging” them along the bottom to imitate big gobies.

Spring also delivers an excellent trolling bite along the eastern shore of Green Bay, in the Sturgeon Bay area, producing fish that have just spawned in nearby bays. Alexander trolls a spread of crankbaits, including Berkley Flicker Shads and Smithwick Rogues and uses planner boards to broaden the spread and cover bottom depths that range from roughly 5 feet to 25 feet.

As spring progresses, Alexander continues to follow the fish, adjusting locations and techniques to suit the season. Common denominators are plentiful fish and trophy walleye potential. For information, visit [alexandersportfishing.com](http://alexandersportfishing.com).

### WINNEBAGO CHAIN

Bob Doctor has been fishing Lake Winnebago all his life and has learned how the walleyes in this system behave through the seasons. Doctor guides both on the Winnebago chain and on Green Bay, but spends about 75 percent of his guiding time on Winnebago.

Winnebago has a continuous season, so the open-water fishing opportunities begin as soon as the Wolf River and the Fox River, upstream of Winnebago, open enough for fishing. That usually happens by the beginning of April, and at that time many of the system’s walleyes are well up the rivers to spawn. They may be moving up or down, and can be in different places, so finding them initially can require a bit of searching. Once things get started, Doctor is on the water a lot so he is generally able to keep up with the fish’s movements.

Fish can be caught a number of ways in the rivers. Doctor pointed toward small Rapala minnows and jigs tipped with worms as good bets early in the spring. As the season progresses, he’ll start pulling crawlers on harnesses, or using a fly harness. At times, he’ll make things very simple with a split shot, a circle hook and a nightcrawler, dragged along the bottom as the boat drifts downstream.

Doctor noted that for drifting strategies, the bait must stay within about 6 inches of the bottom or white bass won’t leave it alone. They will pick the hook clean.

The fish then work their way down into the other lakes in the Winnebago chain, with the bulk of them eventually finding their way to Lake Winnebago. When they first get into the lakes, they gravitate to mud bottom areas, where the water is a bit warmer, and Doctor often targets them with Flicker Shad or Salmo crankbaits. As spring continues to warm the water, the walleyes spread, and patterns throughout the lake become very diverse.

Doctor noted that Winnebago’s walleye population is currently in fabulous condition, with extremely high

Con’t on pg 6

# Fishing Report

Courtesy of: Lake Michigan Angler

Salmon fishing out of North Point is good. Anglers are catching cohos on Brad's Thin Fish, Flicker Shad and dodgers and flies. Fish are scattered from fifteen to forty feet of water. Some lakers and a few kings are also being caught near the bottom on spoons.

On the fox chain anglers are catching crappies in the channels on jigs and minnows. In the sand pond the trout are biting well on Pink Power Bait and Rosy Reds.



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Wisconsin's Walleye Waters (Con't from pg 6)

**BEFORE YOU GO**

Walleye size and number limits vary quite a bit from one fishery to the next and sometimes by season, especially with regard to border waters and seasons that occur prior to the statewide opener for inland lakes. Before you go, visit the Wisconsin DNR Web site and study the regulations. The site also offers a wealth of information about boating access areas, the fisheries themselves, and much more.

**Kenosha Sportfishing & Conservation Association**  
 Invites You To Our Annual  
**Kids Fish N' Fun**



**Complimentary Rods & Reels While Supplies Last!**

**Saturday, May 9, 2015 (No Rain Date)**  
**9:00 am to Noon**  
**Anderson Park Pond**  
**22nd Ave (behind Tremper High School), Kenosha**  
**For Kids Ages 4-12 With An Adult**  
**NO Pre-Registration**

**Lure Selection, Casting, Bait Selection, Fly Tying, DNR Ecology; Catch and Release, and Fish Cleaning**

**For More Information Please Go To:**  
[fishnfun@kenoshasportfishing.com](mailto:fishnfun@kenoshasportfishing.com)  
[www.kenoshasportfishing.com](http://www.kenoshasportfishing.com)




(Con't from page 1)

Receiving feeding instructions for the fish



Preparing a toast "On behalf of the fish"



Rearing Pond Committee members, Mark Hasenberg (Chm) & John Larsen

Photos By: Dick Kessler

Fax (262) 658-0747

Phone (262) 658-3533

**Kenosha Animal Hospital, L.L.P.**

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 DR. F.R. PISARIK

DR. R.J. REYNOLDS  
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At the September meeting WDNr Warden John Sinclair spoke about the September to May night fishing rules. Any calls to the DNR can be anonymous. Report violators to 1-800-847-9367, do not confront violators.



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Wisconsin Walleye Waters (Con't from pg 2)

numbers of fish. The walleyes are not as large as those in the Green Bay system, but the action can be outstanding.

The biggest change in the fishery that Doctor has observed in recent years is that with the spread of zebra mussels and the consequential clearing of the water, weeds have become far more widespread than they ever were before, and more fish spend much more time shallow.

Where virtually all lake fishing used to involve dragging something across a mud flat or working a deeper reef, some of the best fishing action after the fish move back down into the lake each year comes from shallow weeds. Doctor baits a 1/8-ounce jighead with a leech or half a crawler and simply pitches his jig into holes in the vegetation. For more information, visit [winnebagosportfishing.com](http://winnebagosportfishing.com).

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER

From the mouth of the St. Croix River at Prescott to the state's southwestern corner, near Dubuque, Iowa, the Mississippi River runs 250 miles along Wisconsin's western border, and quality walleye offerings extend from one end of that stretch to the other. Walleye fishing is open year 'round, and significant flowing portions stay open through the middle of winter most years.

Top areas and patterns change with the progressing seasons and shifting conditions, but unless extreme flood conditions blow out the river, good fishing can always be found somewhere. In addition to walleyes, the Mississippi holds big numbers of saugers, which use many of the same habitats and take the same lures, keeping action steady even when the walleyes are biting well.



## LAKE SUPERIOR

Walleyes have plenty of room to roam in the largest of the Great Lakes and grow to big sizes, and anglers in the northern part of the state enjoy very good walleye fishing in the lake itself and in its largest tributary. Lake Superior is the best known among anglers for its lake trout, salmon and brown trout, and most charters target those species in the deep water. However, the individual anglers who go on their own and stay closer to the South Shore enjoy excellent success fishing for walleyes.

Lake Superior is open to walleye fishing year 'round, and so open-water opportunities begin as soon as enough ice goes away to launch a boat and fish. The St. Louis River, which forms the border between Wisconsin and Minnesota through its lower reaches and enters Lake Superior between Duluth and Superior, always opens two Saturdays prior to the Saturday closest to Memorial Day. At the beginning of the season, the border portion of the St. Louis River contains big numbers of walleyes, including lake fish that spawned in the river and are working their way back down and the resident river fish. Dragging crawlers over shallow flats on spinner rigs and using planers to get the rigs away from the boat are effective tactics for the first month or so of the season. As spring gradually gives way to summer, trolling crankbaits and minnow-style baits becomes extremely productive in the lower river.

Trolling also works very well in Lake Superior during June, when fish cruise vast flats along the South Shore and feast on baitfish. Waters in the 5-to 25-foot range at the mouth of the river and extending for about 25 miles along the South Shore produce consistently good catches during late spring and early summer.

Something unique about Lake Superior this time of year is that walleye fishing can be very good from the shore. Anglers walking the bank on the Ashland side of Chequamegon Bay use long rods to manage lengthy casts with minnow-style baits like Husky Jerks or swimbaits on leadheads and commonly enjoy good success with quality walleyes. For St. Louis River information, visit [stlouisriverguy.com](http://stlouisriverguy.com).

Con't on pg 4

# MAY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <small>KSFCA Club Meeting 7:00 pm</small>	5	6	7	8	9 <small>Kids Fish- N-Fun event @ Anderson Park</small>
10 <small>Moth- er's Day</small>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <small>1st Club Tourney of 2015</small>	18 <small>KSFCA Board Meeting 7:00 pm</small>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Important dates this month	
• 5-04-15	- KSFCA Club Meeting at the Moose @ 7:00 pm
• 5-09-15	- 2015 Kids Fish-N-Fun Event at Anderson Park Pond, 9:00 am - Noon
• 5-10-15	- Mother's Day
• 5-17-15	- 1st Club Tourney of 2015
• 5-18-15	- KSFCA Board Meeting at 7:00 pm

Officers and Board members		
<b>Officers</b>		
<i>President</i>	Jon FioRito	(262) 220-4606
<i>V.Pres.</i>	Open	
<i>Secretary</i>	Open	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lynn Davis	(650) 267-1142
<b>Board Members</b>		
<i>4yr. 2018</i>	Bonny Jantzen Jim Zondlak	(262) 515-3840 (262) 620-1234
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<i>1yr. 2015</i>	Jack Springer Mike Smith	(262) 694-9462 (414) 331-3423

Committees & Members	
<u>Committee</u>	<u>* Chairmen</u>
<i>Fish-N-Fun</i>	* Lynn Davis Dick Kessler
<i>Contest's</i>	* Open
<i>Fundraiser</i>	* Open
<i>Sunshine</i>	* Jerry Vigansky
<i>Supporting Mem- bership</i>	* Jon FioRito Ray Hinz
<i>Membership</i>	* Mike Smith
<i>Rearing Pond</i>	* Mark Hasenberg John Larsen
<i>Pike River</i>	* Jim Zondlak
<i>Fly Tying</i>	* Jack Springer Scott Kessler Dick Kessler Matt Hetchle
<i>Publication</i>	* Dick Kessler Lynn Davis
<i>Electronic Comm..</i>	* Mike Smith Jim Zondlak Lynn Davis
<i>Guest Speakers</i>	* Jon FioRito Jerry Vigansky

2015 Schedule of Club Events	
• 01/05/15	- Board Elections
• 02/28/15	- Awards Banquet
• 05/09/15	- Kids Fish-N-Fun
• 05/17/15	- Monthly Tournament
• 06/07/15	- Monthly Tournament
• 08/09/15	- Monthly Tournament
• 09/19/15	- Pike River Revival (to be confirmed)
• 09/20/15	- Monthly Tournament
• General Club meeting	are held on the first Monday of each month at the Moose Lodge 7:00pm (no meeting in July)
• Board meetings	are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm location T.B.D. (no meeting in June)

New Fish mapping tool available on line

The map is available at  
[https://cida.usgs.gov/wdnr\\_fishmap/map/](https://cida.usgs.gov/wdnr_fishmap/map/).



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**Treasurer** Lynn Davis (630) 267-1142

*The Kenosha Sport fishing and Conservation Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and proper utilization of the Great Lakes resources. Established in 1969 by local family fisherman, we continue to focus on conservation of the Great Lakes. For over 40 years the K.S.F.C.A. has worked to support our community and the Great Lakes through various activities and educational programs. Some current examples include: kids fishing programs, fly tying classes, Pike river clean-up efforts, and stocking Lake Michigan with over 40,000 Chinook salmon annually.*

*If you would like to support these activities, please contact us by phone, mail, or email. We welcome anyone interested in becoming a member. If you are not interested in becoming a member, but would still like to support these important activities in our community, we do accept financial donations.*



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