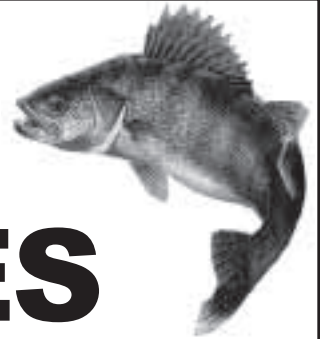




APRIL 2006

WALLEYE LINES



FMWU, Inc.: Promoting conservation,
sportsmanship and education in
respect to walleye fishing.

Thursday, April 20th

Chris Gilman

Tips and Tricks to Catch More Walleyes

PWT Champion Chris Gilman will present the April FM Walleyes Unlimited Seminar, Tips and Tricks to Catch More Walleyes.

Chris is a Three time PWT tournament Champion, a past PWT Angler of the year, Mercury National Champion, Fourteen time PWT Championship qualifier, and 29 time top ten finisher. His favorite fishing presentation is jigs and crankbaits. Chris lists his home waters as Lake Winnebago, and has promoted his fishing efforts over the years through multiple seminars, and articles in major publications including Walleye Insider, Midwest Outdoors, and Wisconsin Outdoor News.



The seminar will include timely and detailed information to catch more walleyes at different times of the year, refining techniques most of us have only scraped the surface. Chris is from Chisago City, MN, and currently fishes the FLW Walleye tour, coming off a 51st place finish at Detroit on April 7.

Chris Gilman is sponsored by Ranger Boats, Evinrude Motors, Lowrance Electronics, Inc., Storm Lures, MinKota, Berkley, and Northland Fishing Tackle. A special thank you to Ranger Boats for sponsoring Chris Gilman's seminar.

The seminar will be held at the Fargo Best Western Doublewood Inn at 7 PM April 20. The event is open to the public with no admission charge. Take the opportunity to listen to the NPAA Angler #60 share his knowledge and fish catching techniques at April's meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 18
Board Meeting

April 20
Membership Meeting
Chris Gilman
courtesy of Ranger Boats

April 22-23
Club Outing
Waubay Lake

May 16
Board Meeting

May 18
Membership Meeting
Tom Johnson

May 20-21
Club Outing
Big Detroit

June 1
Pelican Classic Rules
Meeting at Fairhills Resort

June 2-3
Pelican Classic
Pelican Lake weigh-in at
Fairhills Resort

June 13
Board Meeting

**ALL MEETINGS AT
7 PM AT THE
DOUBLEWOOD INN
OF FARGO, UNLESS
OTHERWISE STATED.**

President's Comments...

Dear Club Members,

Last months program was sure entertaining. Tony Dean made a surprise visit and introduced our main speaker, Bob Probst, Sr. It may not have been a detailed fishing seminar but listening to stories from a Legend like Bob Probst is an evening most will not soon forget. We all owe a big thank You to the shows sponsors: WDAY, Gate City Bank, J&K Marine and Miller Lite Beer.

The fishing bugs are starting to bite and I have the itch really bad. I just can't wait to hit the water. Make sure you keep the weekend of April 22nd & 23rd open so that you can join club members at the first club outing of the year which will be held on Waubay Lake in South Dakota. In past years club members have reported 100 fish catches per person of fish in the 16-18" range. A delicious fish fry is scheduled for after the event so please bring a few items to share with the group. For more info please contact Director, Steve Hall.

I hope to see ya'll at the next meeting on April 20th featuring FLW Pro Chris Gillman.

Best Fishes,

Chad Maloy, President

FM Walleyes Board Meeting Minutes Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND March 14th, 2006

Call to order at 7:08 PM by president Chad Maloy
Absent Board Members: Eric Daninger, Steve Hall. Guest Bob Jensen.

Treasury report by Treasurer Barry Chouinard - \$26429.68 checking balance

Review of minutes... motion to approve by Jeremy Frie, second by Lynn Johnson. Passed.

Old Business:

- Upcoming meetings reviewed and discussed
- Tournament director Lester Sjoblom reported pelican at 58 entries and cormorant entries at 12.

New Business:

- Requests from DNR DL and Fergus Falls... motion to fund four ponds at \$750 Fergus Falls and 56 ponds at \$2978 for Detroit Lakes. Motion to approve by Steve Meyer, second by Lynn Johnson. Passed.

- There was a motion by Barry Chouinard, second by Chris Augustin, to close the checking account at US Bank and move it to Gate City. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourn at 8:10 PM

Bruce Nereson,

Recording Secretary

Classic Tournament Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in helping out during the Pelican Spring or Cormorant Fall Classic Tournaments please call Barry Chouinard or Lester Sjoblom. Their contact info is on the back page. Volunteers will help launch and inspect boats, set up tournament trailer, take care of releasing fish and other duties as asked by the tournament committee.

Classic Tournament Applications

Pelican and Cormorant applications were mailed out in March. They are available at Scheels, Sportsman Warehouse, Gander Mountain, Crystal Pierz Marine and The Pub. The Pelican Spring Classic should be pretty much filled. As of April 10th there have been 115 entries received. We will take 3 alternates in case of a team dropping out. The Cormorant Fall Classic has received 19 entries so far and 23 teams have registered to be eligible for the Classic Cup Championship.

F-M WALLEYES UNLIMITED



Bob Jensen presents the Distinguished Member Award to Bob Dobler during Anglers Night

A W A R D S



Matt Kimball (Junior Division) and Guy Kimball (Adult Division) make winning the traveling trophies a family affair



Junior Division FMWU Outing Winners (l-r): Matt Kimball, Grady Stillwell, Nikki Hall, Justin Montplaiser, Matt Quiggle at the Annual Meeting



Adult Division FMWU Outing Winners (l-r): Guy Kimball, Dan Kaup, Delphine Marty, Don Marty, Sharon Kaup at the Annual Meeting

A Day at Lowrance School by Chris "Auggie" Augustin

On March 18th Bill Diedrich and Bruce "Doc" Samson held their Lowrance School. Bill contributes to the In-Fisherman and is known as the Electronics Doc. Bruce is a PWT pro and contributes to the Walleye Insider.

Doc and Bill gave a great day-long presentation. They went back and forth throughout the day covering basics to advanced settings for G.P.S., sonar, and screen interpretation. Throughout the course of the day we were showed just about everything that a Lowrance can do.

A few things that were emphasized were to turn the Fish I.D. off. Doc and Bill both referred to this as cartoon fish. They believe that after some practice you will be able to decipher your graph better than the computer. Another tip was adjusting sensitivity. Bill likes to increase the sensitivity until a slight peppering of the screen appears; whereas Doc would rather have much more sensitivity. Also be careful with mounting the transducer. The middle of the transducer should be flush with the boat. Then tilt the transducer back about 50. The big thing with G.P.S. is to turn Track Up in the Map Orientation menu. This can make it a little easier navigating water while running on a lake.

After the Lowrance portion Bruce went through his mapping class. Doc went over Fugawi, 3D Field Pro, Global Mapper, Lake Master, and Map Create. Some things that were shown were aerial photos of various lakes and how to make waypoints, waypoint management, and creating your own topography maps. Bruce uses 3D Field Pro to make on the water G.P.S. accurate topography maps. This is done by logging sonar data over a specific area. After that is completed he takes the MMC card out of the Lowrance and plugs it into his waterproof laptop computer. After a few minutes he plugs the card back into the Lowrance and he has topography maps. Technology has really made strides over the years. It was a great experience going to class, seeing, and learning what is out there.

For more information check out Bruce's website at www.hightechfishing.com.

SWIMMING JIGS

By Jason Mitchell

Spring and early summer often find walleye shallow and casting or pitching can be a great way to reach these fish. Casting jigs and swimming them back to the boat is just such an old tactic yet so many of today's anglers rarely know how to "swim a jig."

These days, most anglers fish a jig below the boat and always on the bottom. When most anglers cast a jig, again they drag it on the bottom or bounce the jig along the bottom back to the boat. Both these methods are hard to argue, as they are two of the most effective ways to present a jig. There are other situations that arise however that force anglers to "swim a jig" to prevent getting snagged or get the jig in front of fish that are cruising off the bottom.

For some anglers, casting a jig and reeling without ever hitting bottom can feel wrong but its effectiveness early in the season when fish are shallow can't be disputed. Swimming jigs is incredibly effective and walleye anglers have been catching walleyes by using this tactic for an awful long time. Fifty years ago, most walleye jigs were tied with buck tail or even marabou. There was a time when all jigs were tied with some kind of tail and these jigs were meant to be reeled back to the boat or trolled behind the boat. As you can see, this tactic is hardly new but bears repeating.

In today's world, buck tail and marabou have fallen out of favor to the new enhanced plastics. Bait is awful hard to argue with as well. Early in the season when we are casting to walleye in shallow water, slow and steady seems to the rule. No snaps, no jerks. Just cast the jig out and reel. The jig doesn't have to touch bottom and an awful lot of strikes come as the jig changes angle and rises when the jig is getting reeled back up to the boat.

Ironically to what many anglers believe about walleye and sunlight, we often find the fish riding higher in the water, closer to the surface when the sun is out early in the season. I imagine the warmth of the sun feels pretty good to fish as well. Debris on the bottom might be another reason to swim the jig higher in the water. Finding the right combination is more or less experimenting with speed of retrieve, size of jig and body styles. Usually, many anglers might have a tendency to use too light of a jig. This application allows you to go heavier in the sense that it takes more jig to drop as you reel.

Plastic bodies seem to work best when current is sweeping the jig past the fish fast or if you are reeling fast enough to force the fish to bite the jig versus bump it. Regardless of what you read, plastics still don't appeal to fish as much as bait. Plastics work and sometimes work better than bait but we still don't put plastics on a slip bobber now do we. Apples to apples, real bait still smells better, moves better and triggers fish better if the presentation is slow enough where fish get to examine the bait. If I have to slow down the "swim" of the jig, I like to tip the jig with a half crawler, minnow or leech. While leeches might not be considered by many as the bait for early season walleye, leeches are one of my favorite baits in the spring. We use leeches as soon as we can find them.

Often, these shallow locations early in the season will have some new weed growth. A regular ball head jig will work fine for swimming and is extremely versatile. In some places however, there has been a trend towards weedless jigs or jigs with a wire hook guard. These horizontal riding jigs with weed guards are surprisingly effective. The weedless jig I like to use the most is the Lindy Veg E Jig. I like this jig because this jig glides through the water with the hook upright at extremely slow speeds and I like the hooks the jigs are made with, a wide gap Gamakatsu hook. I usually trim the wire weed guard down just a bit just to make the hook ups better.

Simply put, the jig swims along the bottom and the fish come up from behind and eat. That being said, the fish that eat the jig are just there. Some fish will often follow behind the jig and bump it as you bring it back to the boat. If the bumps are really light, you can sometimes let the fish have the jig a little before setting the hook but



we usually set the hook at anything that feels fish like. Often, just changing the size of the jig either heavier or lighter will either speed the retrieve up to force the fish to eat the jig or slow the retrieve down to let the fish get more of an opportunity. You will know when you find the magic combination. You can often feel the real light bumps from fish that are trailing the jig and in some cases, even see a walleye shadowing the jig. The close calls let you know you are on the right page, you just need to keep experimenting with size and speed usually. Color and some of the other factors some anglers get hung up are much less important than the size and speed issue.

In fishing, what is often old can sometimes be new, as is the case with swimming jigs. Many of the first jigs designed for walleye fishing were designed to swim. Jigging has come full circle over the past half of a century and some of these really old and sometimes forgotten tactics are becoming popular again. Many anglers can assure you that some of these forgotten or sidelined tactics that accounted for so many walleye just a generation or two ago still catch their share of walleye today.

Editors Note: The author, Jason Mitchell has earned an amazing reputation as a professional fishing guide on North Dakota's Devils Lake. Jason can be contacted by calling 701-662-6560 for information on fishing or Devils Lake.

March Meeting Review *by Jeremy Frie*

Legendary Angler Bob Probst was on hand to entertain the huge FM Walleyes Unlimited crowd at the March Angler's Night at the Doublewood Inn. A special thanks to Tony Dean for providing Bob's introduction at the start of the meeting. It was an excellent night to learn a thing or two with Bob, Tony and a number of local and regional professional walleye fisherman on hand for Bob's presentation.

Tony summed up Bob the best. "Bob's ability to find walleyes in uncanny". Bob provided story upon story from his past, from guiding to tournaments to a story about duck hunting. Bob told us of his early days fishing with the likes of Tony Dean, Gary Roach, Mike McClelland, Jim Randash, and others to name a few.

Bob was one of the first, if not the first walleye fisherman to utilize tactics such as sea anchors, lead core, long rods, outriggers, and open water trolling. While many of these tactics are new to many of us, Bob was utilizing these in the late 1950's and 60's. Up until the late 90's, Bob was actively guiding as well as fishing numerous tournaments each year. Back problems forced him out of the tournament circuit but he is still very active in guiding from his pontoon.

Although often referred to as "the greatest walleye fisherman to have ever lived", Bob continues to learn at every opportunity. One of the most important aspects involved in learning is to watch what others do. Bob watches every move of his clients when on guiding trips. Slight differences in presentation, color, action, or other can make all the difference in whether you catch fish or not.

Some of Bob's favorite things are jig fishing, trolling jigs, Lake Erie, Chamberlin, Thin Fins, Flat Fish, straight hook/bait fishing, backtrolling, duck hunting, and stories, some of which involved "mob" type family activities during his early years.....

Try implementing some of Bob's simple, but tried and true techniques the next time you're on the water. Troll a jig. Use a hair jig or one with a twister tail on it. Cast white jigs in clear, shallow water at night, just after a full moon. Use black jigs at night on most other nights. And if you can find a #4 fluorescent orange or glossy pearl Flat Fish, buy it!

Thanks to Bob and all who attended the 8th Annual Angler's night. See you Thursday, April 20 at the Doublewood Inn where we hope to learn a few more secrets from Ranger Pro Chris Gilman.



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F-M WALLEYE CLUB OUTING MAY 20TH & 21ST TO INCLUDE ON-THE-WATER BOAT DEMONSTRATION

The May Club Outing will be on Big Detroit Lake, Detroit Lakes, MN. We will be headquartering out of the parking lot at the Holiday Inn. The public access boat ramp is near there. Please note the time change for this Club Outing only:

Saturday 7 AM to 4 PM. Sunday 7 AM to 1 PM.

Our Club has invited boat dealerships to attend. Following the weigh-in on Sunday, there will be on-the-water boat demonstrations.

If you have questions, please call: Steve Hall (H) 218-233-7011 or Scott Stillwell (H) 218-236-9001
(C) 701-261-4379 (C) 701-361-1682
(W) 701-237-0435

AQUATIC NUISANCE PLANTS SURVEY

The Minnesota DNR has selected Pelican Lake as an aquatic nuisance plants survey in 2006.

What this means is the DNR will be at the boat ramps inspecting trailers for weeds, empty livewells etc for 6 different weekends throughout the summer.

One of the designated weekends for this survey is the weekend of the Pelican tournament.

Contestants must allow extra time at the boat ramps in the morning due to potential delays.

Membership Application and Renewal

F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc. – An area sportsman's club, dedicated to the preservation and improvement of walleye fishing, invites you to join and actively participate in our fishing club New Renew

Application for Membership: \$20 Junior Member (under 18) - FREE

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____ Work (____) _____ - _____

Do you own a boat? Yes No Would you like to fish with other club members? Yes No

E-mail: _____

Membership requirements: Persons desiring membership must be those who can act in a sportsmanlike manner and will be a credit to the organization. Receipt of this application, yearly dues and approval of the Board of Directors are required for membership. Mail application to:

F-M Walleyes Unlimited, Inc., PO Box 1017, Moorhead, MN 56560.

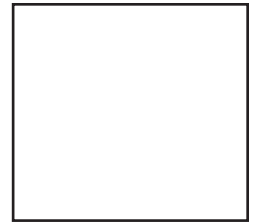
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