

# FISH TALES

BLUEWATER ANGLERS NEWSLETTER

[www.bluewateranglers.com](http://www.bluewateranglers.com)

Fall 2011



## CLUB ACTIVITY CALENDAR For September - December 2011

September 7	Board of Directors Meeting
September 13	General Membership Meeting
September 17	Fall Big Fish Derby
September 26	Salmon Derby Committee Mtg
October 5	Board of Directors Meeting
November 2	Board of Directors Meeting
December 7	Board of Directors Meeting

Check the Bluewater Anglers website for current information on upcoming club events at [www.bluewateranglers.com/events.html](http://www.bluewateranglers.com/events.html).

## BLUEWATER ANGLERS FALL BIG FISH DERBY

Saturday, September 17, 2011

Bring the family or a friend and participate in the last Bluewater Angler fishing event of the year. Everyone is invited to participate in the Fall Big Fish Derby. All you need is an entry ticket and a valid fishing license for the waters you are fishing. The entry fee is \$10.00 per person. All entries must be purchased by 4:30 PM Friday Sept 16, 2011. Entry forms and derby information will be available at **The Outdoorsman, Bucks Baits**, and the September 13<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting.

This is a BOAT and SHORE event. If fishing from a boat, all people aboard must have an entry ticket.

The Salmon Derby boundaries apply for this event (... in the St. Clair River south to the south end of Fawn Island, east to the harbour at Grand Bend, and north to the trailer park north of Lexington, Michigan). Boundaries for all streams and rivers entering into the St. Clair River or Lake Huron are upstream to the first bridge or roadway, whichever comes first.

This is a single fish derby. Derby contestants are allowed to enter only their SINGLE heaviest fish. Only Salmon, Rainbow Trout, and Brown Trout are eligible. Participants must bring their catch to the weigh-in station, located at the FISH HATCHERY, between 2:00 PM and 3:00 PM, September 17th, 2011. **You must be in line by 3:00 PM for your entry to be eligible.**

Prizes will be presented immediately following the weigh-in. Cash prizes will be awarded for the 5 heaviest fish entered. The following will be the breakdown of cash prizes based on total entry fees:

1 <sup>st</sup>	35%	4 <sup>th</sup>	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	20%	5 <sup>th</sup>	5%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	15%	15% for the fish hatchery	

Come out and enjoy the last club event of the year.

## SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 13, 2011  
Point Edward Arena & Community Centre  
210 Monk Street  
Doors open at 7:00 PM  
Meeting starts at 7:30 PM

### AGENDA

Hatchery Update  
Salmon Derby Update  
Coming Club Events  
Fishing Report  
Swap Table

### GUEST SPEAKER

David Gonder  
Management Biologist  
Upper Great Lakes Management Unit  
Lake Huron Office

### TOPIC

State of the Lake, Asian Carp,  
Lake Trout Stocking Plan

## HATCHERY REPORT

We have been busy this summer catching up with the maintenance projects. The aeration towers are cleaned, the pumps are all cleaned and rebuilt, and the incubators are cleaned and ready for Salmon eggs. All this work has kept Henry Kock and Paul DeVlugt very busy on Tuesdays since the derby. GREAT JOB guys!

At present, the hatchery has 8,500 Rainbow Trout that we held over from the spring. They have progressed nicely and now average about 40 grams. They should be about 60 grams when we stock them in November. This will be after the cormorants have left the area.

Our 22,000 Brown Trout are now in their growth mode and are gaining about 10% a week. They should be close to 20 grams for the fall stocking in November.

The newest batch of Ganaraskas Rainbow Trout has gone through a tough start. Of the 50,000 eggs that we started with in May, we now have 35,000 fry in the rearing tanks. This batch of eggs was very late arriving and the eggs were not as large as previous years. The fry were slow to start eating and the early die off was significant. They have stabilized now and are growing as expected. They will be released next spring.

The rearing plan for the coming 2011/2012 season is 110,000 Chinook salmon eggs ... still subject to MNR discussions. Egg collection will be in early October. 30,000 Brown Trout eggs from the MNR hatchery in Sault St. Marie should arrive in late December. We are scheduled to receive 50,000 Ganaraskas Rainbow Trout eggs from the MNR hatchery in Sault St. Marie in March or April 2012.

As you can see, we have been busy and we have a fairly aggressive schedule for the coming season. The existing hatchery workers have done a terrific job keeping YOUR hatchery running and in top condition. We need to start getting more members involved in the day to day hatchery operations if we are to continue. Age is not something that slows down.

We will have a major project at the hatchery this fall. The existing auxiliary diesel generator will be replaced. The expense to repair the existing obsolete unit is significant and the Board of Directors decided to replace the unit with one that is state of the art technology.

Jake

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FIN CLIPPING AND SALMON EGG COLLECTION

In September, we will be asking for volunteers to help with fin clipping the 22,000 Brown Trout.

In early October, we will need people to help with the annual Chinook salmon egg collection and fertilization back at the hatchery.

There will be more information and sign-up sheets at the September 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Call Jake at 519-869-2371 if you can help with either of these two tasks but can't make the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is a great way to see how the hatchery runs and meet other members.

## HATCHERY RAISED SALMON DERBY WINNERS

Two of the top 10 salmon caught during the 2011 Salmon Derby were hatchery raised fish (... clipped adipose fins). Hopefully, there will be more hatchery raised fish caught during next spring's Salmon Derby.



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner: Brad Kuglin (18.22 lbs)



4<sup>th</sup> Place Winner: Jake Van Rooyen (17.64 lbs)

## KNOW THE FISHING REGULATIONS ... AND KNOW WHERE YOU ARE

Several local anglers were charged this past spring at Cow Creek for fishing in a closed season area.

Lake Huron is located in FMZ 13 and the inland waters in our area are located in FMZ 16. At present, the boundary between FMZ 13 and FMZ 16 is the Lake Huron water's edge ... not the first bridge off the lake at Lakeshore Road.

When you are fishing north of the bridge in Cow Creek (... or as a lot of us know it Perch Creek) in Brights Grove, you are fishing in FMZ 16 until you pass the shoreline and the FMZ 16 regulations apply. Rainbow Trout season in FMZ 16 does not open until the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of April and it closes on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Bluewater Anglers are working to have the boundary between FMZ 13 and FMZ 16 changed to the first bridge but until then know where you are fishing and know the applicable fishing seasons and regulations.



**FOR SALE**

**BOAT AND TRAILER**

**\$15,000.00 FIRM**

**1989 SEA RAY-25 foot**

**FOR MORE INFO PH. 519=336-1072**

**Ask for Don or leave a message**

## FAMILY FUN FISHING DERBY

The fourth Family Fun Fishing (i.e. Goby) Derby held on Saturday, July 9, 2011 was another huge hit. Twenty nine families, including 63 kids and 53 adults, participated. The weather was perfect, and there were prizes and food for everyone.

In the Goby division the winners were

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Lavoie Family
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Doan Family
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Woolaver Family

In the single big fish division the winners were

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Ryan Young (15 1/4 inch bass)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Shamus McCarthy (12 1/2 inch mud puppy)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Justin Sturch (9 1/2 inch rock bass)

Thanks to ***Eric's Pro Tackle*** in Wallaceburg and the Plain family for supplying all the worms for the event. Thanks to the ***Outdoorsman*** for a variety of prizes, and to ***Randy Fulkerson*** for making some walleye spinners for prizes. Also a special thanks to the directors and Bluewater Anglers members who helped out in a variety of ways to make this event a success.



# VILLAGE OF POINT EDWARD AND THE BLUEWATER ANGLERS WALLEYE DERBY

August 5 - 6, 2011

The weather and fish cooperated for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Walleye Derby held on Friday night, August 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday morning, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Eighty two tickets were sold for the event. Thirty three walleye were entered in the single fish event. The winning fish were smaller than previous years but several lucky anglers had limit catches in their coolers. The walleye came from both the river and the mouth of the lake.

There was a 3 way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place. The tie was broken based on the order that the fish were weighed in. The Walleye Derby winners were

1. Chris Vandenheuvel (1.40 kg; \$500)
2. Tom Mandeville (1.40 kg; \$250)
3. Chris Garwood (1.40 kg; \$125)
4. Joe Cooper (1.35 kg; \$100)
5. Joe Dunham (1.34 kg; \$50)
6. Kyle Green (1.32 kg; \$25)
7. Gil Gonyeau (1.31 kg; \$25)
8. Robert Brunet (1.30 kg; \$25)
9. James Timmington (1.26 kg; \$25)
10. Terry Latham (1.22 kg; \$25)

Tom Mandeville was the Bluewater Angler member with the largest walleye. He won an additional \$100.



Coordinator 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
 Frank Chris Tom Chris  
 Turnbull Garwood Mandeville Vandenheuvel

We thank **The Village of Point Edward** for donating the \$500 prize for the largest walleye, and **Angling Sports**, London (rod & reel combo) and **Eric's Pro Tackle**, Wallaceburg (tackle assortment) for providing the draw prizes. Also, thanks to everyone who helped with the weigh-in and participated in this year's event.

# SALMON DERBY UPDATE

As you can see in the Salmon Derby Financial Summary below, we had another successful Salmon Derby. While ticket sales were down 6.6%, overall profit was up approx. \$2,800 (24%) due mainly to generous sponsorship which allowed us to purchase fewer prizes.

All Salmon Derby profits go towards the operation of our hatchery. Thanks to everyone who participated in the Salmon Derby, the Salmon Derby Committee members, the volunteers, and our many wonderful sponsors.

## 2011 SALMON DERBY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(as of July 16, 2011)

	ACTUAL <u>2010</u>	BUDGET <u>2011</u>	ACTUAL <u>2011</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Ticket Sales	24,150	22,000	22,575
Tabloid	5,800	6,000	6,200
Sponsors	12,040	13,000	12,510
Awards Night Draw	1,075	1,000	1,265
Hats & Shirts Sales	<u>200</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>240</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>43,265</b>	<b>42,300</b>	<b>42,790</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Hats & Shirts	2,068	1,800	2,346
Tabloid	2,819	2,700	2,876
Prizes	17,167	18,000	13,543
Weigh Stations	3,385	3,300	3,084
Office & Misc	912	900	835
Advertising & Promotion	<u>5,170</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>5,553</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>31,521</b>	<b>32,200</b>	<b>28,237</b>
<b>NET PROCEEDS</b>	<b>11,744</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>14,553</b>

Planning for next spring's **2012 Salmon Derby** is about to begin. The 2012 Salmon Derby dates are **April 27 - May 6, 2012**. The first meeting of the 2012 Salmon Derby Committee will be held on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Hatchery. Come out and help with the planning of next spring's Salmon Derby. New blood and new ideas are needed and always welcome.

There will be more information at the September 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Contact Colin Brown (519-869-4099, [colinbrown@cogeco.ca](mailto:colinbrown@cogeco.ca)) or Pete Bothwell (518-869-4011, [pbothwell@cogeco.ca](mailto:pbothwell@cogeco.ca)) if you have any questions but can't attend the September 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

## MICHIGAN PROPOSAL FOR CHINOOK SALMON STOCKING IN LAKE HURON

The Michigan DNR is recommending that the stocking of Chinook salmon in Lake Huron be stopped for at least the next 5 years. The following information has been extracted from a **Special Report - Lake Huron Chinook Salmon Issues** published by the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council in August 2011. The full GLSFC report can be found on the Bluewater Anglers website ([www.bluewateranglers.com](http://www.bluewateranglers.com)).

.....  
*In 2006, the Michigan DNR reduced Chinook salmon stocking in Lake Huron by 50% in response to a greatly reduced forage fish population, and evidence that most of the salmon in the lake were produced naturally. At that time, the DNR made a commitment to reassess the Chinook stocking issue in five years. Annual angler surveys show the fishing has not improved, but has further deteriorated.*

### ..... **Summary of Findings:**

- *The Lake Huron food web has radically changed during the previous 10-15 years.*
- *The forage base (prey fish) is no longer dominated by alewife and smelt.*
- *Recruitment of wild lake trout and walleye is increasing in Lake Huron, a sign that native species are adapting to major ecological changes caused by zebra and quagga mussel infestation.*
- *Increasing populations of lake trout and walleye are contributing to post stocking predation and mortality on spring fingerling Chinook salmon.*
- *Based on data collected from 2000-2009, it is estimated that more than 80% of the Chinook salmon in Lake Huron are naturally-reproduced.*
- *In recent years, the returns of stocked Chinook salmon to the creel (angler harvest) and the Swan River weir have been at record low levels.*
- *A Chinook salmon stocking reduction is a defensible approach to managing the fishery in Lake Huron and should be viewed as adaptive management in the face of historic changes to the ecology of Lake Huron.*

.....  
*Taking into account the many biological and social factors discussed above, including a high amount of wild recruitment of Chinook salmon, three scenarios for future Chinook salmon stocking have been considered by fisheries managers.*

1) *Maintain current Chinook salmon stocking numbers and locations on Lake Huron (... not recommended).*

2) *Maintain Chinook salmon stocking at all current locations on Lake Huron, but reduce by 50% the number stocked at each location (... not recommended).*  
3) *Maintain Chinook salmon stocking at Nunn's Creek and Swan River, and suspend Chinook salmon stocking at all other Lake Huron locations (... recommended).*

.....  
*A decision to discontinue Chinook salmon stocking at all other current locations on Lake Huron would result in an annual stocking reduction of approximately 630,000 fish.*

.....  
*The Department of Natural Resources will host three public meetings in the Lake Huron Watershed to discuss the future of Chinook salmon stocking in the lake (... meetings were scheduled for August 8, 9 & 10).*

.....  
*It is imperative that decisions affecting the number of fish to be stocked in 2012 are made in time to adjust fall egg take. Consequently, a decision affecting the 2012 stocking of Chinook salmon must be made by October of 2011 before egg take is completed.*



### **16' 9" SUNRAY (1977) – WHITE**

- 85 HP 1978 Evinrude outboard
- Back to back sleeper seats; two rear bench seats
- Walk through windshield (but not a bowrider)
- Canopy top, full weather closure
- Includes kicker motor bracket, Cadet depth finder, Hummingbird fish finder, anchor, spare tire, and two 25 litre gas tanks
- Full steering assembly replaced in 2010
- Power head rebuild in 2000
- New gear case in 1998
- Great ski / tubing combo
- Main use has been fishing April thru October
- Asking Price \$2,800

I have owned this boat since 1988. I want to move up to a bigger fishing boat so there is lots of room for the kids and grandkids! Call Al Dezort at 542-6992.

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

The Bluewater Anglers' **FISH TALES** newsletter is available by e-mail. The benefits of the electronic version of the newsletter include:

- better print quality including color pictures and links,
- quicker distribution,
- more environmentally friendly (... save paper),
- reduced club costs for printing, envelopes & postage.

If you would like to receive your **FISH TALES** newsletter by e-mail rather than regular Canada Post (... snail mail) send a request to [bluewateranglers@hotmail.com](mailto:bluewateranglers@hotmail.com). Please include your name and current e-mail address.

## SARNIA LAMBTON CRIME STOPPERS

You can call **Sarnia Lambton Crime Stoppers** if you have information about persons breaking the law while fishing or hunting, by poaching, fishing illegally or selling angler caught fish? We will forward your information to the MNR. If your tip is successful, you could receive a cash reward. You never have to give your name or go to court.

Call Crime Stoppers any time of the day or night

**1-800-222-TIPS ... that's 1-800-222-8477**

## BLUEWATER ANGLERS AND OFAH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Complete the forms below to become a Bluewater Anglers or OFAH member or to renew your current membership. More information about BWA membership benefits can be found at [www.bluewateranglers.com/membership.html](http://www.bluewateranglers.com/membership.html). Contact Ralph Eves (519-383-0873 or [raljo\\_eves@sympatico.ca](mailto:raljo_eves@sympatico.ca)) for more information on either membership.

### BLUEWATER ANGLERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP: New  Renewal  Junior (\$10.00)  Single (\$20.00)  Family (\$30.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

OFAH Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheque payable to **BLUEWATER ANGLERS** and send the completed form to **Bluewater Anglers, c/o Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 174, Sarnia Ontario N7T 7H9.**

Also, did you know that you can join the **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** at a discount rate through the Bluewater Anglers? Apply for an OFAH membership or renew your membership using the form below.

### ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS (OFAH) APPLICATION

OFAH MEMBERSHIP: Adult (\$32.50)  Family (\$43.50)  Youth, under 21 (\$29.50)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

OFAH Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ (if a current member)

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make a separate cheque payable to **ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS** and send the completed form to **Bluewater Anglers, c/o Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 174, Sarnia Ontario N7T 7H9.**