

# The Making of our Fishing Future

Story by Pam Cornell

When Meghan Bannink's father, Rob, was signing up for the Memorial Day Fishing Derby in May 2011, two kids, Meghan and Cole, followed him into the gazebo at the Municipal Marina in Pentwater. Meghan was just 12 years old but had a lot of fishing time on the water with her father and grandfather. The family owns a cottage on Juniper Beach; so being on the lake was in her DNA.

Lyn Snider, Amy Sharp and myself, Pam Cornell, saw Meghan looking at our pink flyer announcing the Ladies Classic set for July. We told her that she should put a team together and give it a go. Dad Rob bought her a PSA hat and another for her brother and Meghan left with a pink flyer in hand.

The rest is history. Meghan's team, "The Juniper Beach Trollers", have fished the Ladies Class all but one year since. In 2011, Meghan was our very first recipient of the "Youngest Captainette" award. Her team over the years included her brother Cole, her Aunt Amy, cousins, Grandfather and of course, Rob Bannink, her father and current Director in the PSA. But Meghan was the Captain and her crew always included good fisherwomen! They went home with the biggest Coho plaque in 2012 that still hangs on the cottage wall.

History continues to be made. Meghan graduated from Grand Haven HS this spring and has plans to become a marine biologist. She is going to study at Eckerd College on the southernmost tip of St. Petersburg, Florida near Tampa Bay. Anyone who knows Meghan understands-she just can't be too far from the water. After all, she was the PSA first recipient of the "Youngest Captainette" award.

Pentwater Sportfishing Association wishes Meghan much success and looks forward to hearing of her achievements in college in whatever field she chooses to pursue. Marine biology sounds pretty good to us!

And Meghan, we are all proud of you.



George & Pam Cornell, with Meghan Bannink, 2016



Juniper Beach Trollers Fishing Team - 2011